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CHRONICLE

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Snow business

Winter family favourite returning to the stage

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THEATRE FIGHT WILL CONTINUE

Fast food breakfast to create more jobs

A FAST food restaurant has been given permission to open two hours earlier in a move which will create 15 new jobs.

McDonald's in Bromsgrove Road in Halesowen has been given permission by Dudley Council to open from 6am under a six-month trial.

Residents living nearby the restaurant had objected to the proposal, claiming it would cause noise disturbance in the mornings.

But at a meeting of Dudley Council's development control committee this week, councillors approved the plan for a six-month period.

Franchisee Afia Sirkhot had said the proposal would further help the restaurant serve its customers. She said the earlier start would allow them to capitalise on breakfast trade from commuters and bring it in line with other restaurants.

Meanwhile, more than 100 jobs will be created under plans to build two new fast food restaurants as part of a multi-million pound development in Stourbridge.

McDonald's and KFC are looking to open drive-thru branches off Mill Race Lane on the outskirts of the town centre. Three units would built under the proposals, which have been lodged with Dudley Council by Jumbuk Limited.

Market is to get revamp

COUNCILLORS on Monday heralded a multi-million revamp of Dudley town centre as they approved the final part of a overhaul of the old market place at a planning meeting.

The agreed proposal will see a new-look market place with 74 stalls stretching along High Street from Stone Street to Castle Street.

The market will feature a central aisle between two rows of stalls covered by a roof.

Trip is Rio let down for mother



Julie Day will be left at home when husband David and son Macauley jet off to Brazil to watch England in the World Cup

IT's the trip of a lifetime – jetting off to to watch England in the World Cup. But Julie Day's dream of travelling to Brazil has been given the red card by her husband and son after they decided to leave her at home.

It had originally been planned as a three-week celebration to mark two milestone birthdays – other half David's 50th and son Macauley's 18th.

Mrs Day was going to fly out by herself to join the pair for part of the trip but after the costs started to spiral, father and son decided only they could go.

Mrs Day, of Linden Avenue, Halesowen, said she felt 'disappointed' when her husband broke the news. The 48-year-old, who enjoys watching England on television, recently started her own business, a wedding and prom dress shop called Perfect Days Weddings in Long Lane, Halesowen.

She said due to the commitment of opening the store, their budget for the trip, which Mr Day had been planning for more than three years, was already stretched.

"We can't afford both. My husband said I couldn't be away from the shop for that long. That was his excuse," she said. Mrs Day is now pleading with her husband to make it up to her by taking her on a dream trip to Mexico.

Arsenal fan Mr Day said the cost of air fares to Rio de Janeiro, internal flights, accomodation at four-star hotels and tickets for matches for him and his son was likely to be £13,000.

The 49-year-old, who owns industrial tank cleaning business Bio Clean Jetting, said: "It was horrible having to tell her she couldn't go but when I saw the prices, I couldn't believe it."

CAMPAIGNERS aiming to save Dudley Hippodrome from demolition are determined to continue their fight despite the death of their leader.

Former Halesowen College lecturer Geoff Fitzpatrick was the driving force behind a campaign to save the landmark building when demolition plans were announced in 2011.

The 72-year-old died on Friday after a short illness, and members of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group, which he founded, have praised his hard work and devotion to the theatre campaign.

Gordon Downing, 77, from Dibdale Road, Dudley, said: "We are very sad to lose him. He was a very quiet, personable man who got on with the job without making too much fuss about it, and he will be sorely missed by the group.

Vision

"We have lost our leader and he will be very hard to replace."

He added that the group would continue with the campaign to try to realise his vision of reopening the theatre to big shows once again.

"We don't see why the biggest town in England shouldn't have its own theatre," Mr Downing said.

Friend Paul Collins called Mr Fitzpatrick an 'utterly fearless' campaigner.

He said Mr Fitzpatrick's condition worsened after being admitted to hospital with a collapsed lung two months ago.

His condition meant he was unable to attend an assembly on the steps of the theatre last month to mark its 75th anniversary.

Historian Dr Collins added: "There still remains the possibility that we are going to get it saved and reopened. We are all incredibly sad that when this does happen he won't be there to see it."

Garry Sawers, aged 55, from Avon Close, Pensnett, said he had never even been to the Hippodrome until he met Mr Fitzpatrick, but is now a fully-fledged member of the campaign to save it.



Geoff Fitzpatrick – sad loss

He said: "He was a very nice man, genuine and inoffensive, very sweet.

"In all the time I knew him I never had anything from him other than 'there's no way they are going to knock that Hippodrome down'. He never gave up on it, he always believed 100 per cent that we would win eventually."

Leader of Dudley Council, Councillor David Sparks, also paid tribute to Mr Fitzpatrick. He said: "It is a sad loss, I knew him as a local councillor when I represented Cradley. He was an honest campaigner."

Mr Fitzpatrick, of Halesowen, was instrumental in gathering a 35,000-signature petition that resulted in the theatre being given a stay of execution in July.

Residents have their say over the cuts

MORE than 1,800 residents have had their say on which services they want to save from multi-million pound cuts in Dudley.

Councillors are urging more people to get involved ahead of the deadline at the end of this month.

The Labour-controlled authority has already revealed it needs to make cuts totalling £25.8 million by 2016/17. But around a further £32m needs to be found over the same period after central Government funding was cut further.

Litter

Among the savings already identified are cuts to street cleaning, which will see residents encouraged to hold their own litter picks, and plans to shorten the collection period for green waste to save £100,000.

Dudley Performing Arts has suffered a cut to its funding and around £2.3 million will need to be saved from children's services.

The Big Question consultation is open until January 31 with councillors keen to establish which services residents value the most.

The council had proposed up to 334 job losses by 2017. But unions say they fear many more could be at risk.

Take part at www.dudley.gov.uk or pick up a form from Dudley Council Plus or local library.

Animals are led to safety

MORE than 70 animals had to be led to safety after high winds and heavy rain wreaked havoc on their sanctuary in Sedgley.

Seven cockatiels flew off and are feared dead after the wall of their aviary crashed down at Brockswood Animal Sanctuary in Catholic Lane, Sedgley. Meanwhile, 71 animals, including sheep, goats and ponies had to be taken to other fields because their paddocks were waterlogged as the relentless outbursts of rain.

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CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Halesowen who can help:

Tom Mason: 01902 319550
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk
Charlotte Lilley: 01902 319688
charlotte.lilley@expressandstar.co.uk
Will Ackermann: 01543 465305
will.ackermann@expressandstar.co.uk
Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk
Louise Jew: 01384 353201
louise.jew@expressandstar.co.uk
Alex Ross: 01384 353207
alex.ross@expressandstar.co.uk
Andrew Turton: 01384 353202
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk
Lee Watton: 01384 353230
lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk

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Sports: E-mail: chronsport@expressanstar.co.uk
Photographic John Sambrooks
Tel: 01902 319431

Advertising:

Nikki Cope
Tel: 01902 319573 E-mail: n.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

Emma Parkes
Tel: 01384 353234 E-mail: e.parkes@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Talented artist had been ill for three months

EVELYN Purchase, 20, was found dead by her mother at their Butchers Lane home. She had been feeling unwell for more than three months having been diagnosed with sinusitis by a GP in January and given two courses of antibiotics.

Her concerned mother Tara took her to Dudley's Holly Hall walk-in centre at around 10pm on April 4. She was diagnosed with a respiratory tract infection and given antibiotics and antidepressant citalopram. On April 6, Mrs Purchase returned home to find her daughter lying on the bed unconscious with the house phone in her hand. She attempted mouth-to-mouth resuscitation but nothing could be done.

At the inquest on Monday, Black Country coroner Robin Balmain raised concerns over the care she had received at the walk-in centre, saying an assessment of Evelyn had been 'less than optimal'.

Dr Mahmud Ahmed prescribed strong antibiotics but Mr Balmain questioned why he had not looked into why she had not responded to two previous courses.

The inquest was told Dr Ahmed also gave Evelyn the anti-depressant citalopram as he believed she needed a 'lift' after being told she had lost her appetite. But her mother Mrs Purchase told the hearing that she was concerned her daughter did not have a mental health examination by Dr Ahmed before he prescribed the drug.

Mr Balmain gave a short narrative verdict where he concluded: "A medical examination that took place on the evening of April 4 was less than optimal. It's not possible to say the death could have been prevented."

Mr Balmain said of Dr Ahmed: "He made the assumption that what he was prescribing was going to be stronger [than previous antibiotics] and there was no basis for that assumption."

Dr Ahmed, giving evidence to the inquest, said he had not believed her chest infection was more serious, adding: "She was talking to me, she was not unduly short of breath, she was not distressed and she came walking into the room."

Student died two days after seeing walk-in GP

SHE was a talented art student who loved rock music and wanted to design computer games when she graduated from college.

But those dreams were shattered when Evelyn Purchase died of severe pneumonia on her mother's bed less than 36 hours after being sent home by an out-of-hours GP with antibiotics for a chest infection.

by Andrew Turton

The 20-year-old, from Butchers Lane, Cradley, died in the early hours of April 6 last year.

Black Country senior coroner Robin Balmain raised concerns over her care in the hours before her death, describing it as a 'tragedy'.

Her mother Tara, a 41 year old lecturer at Halesowen College, believes more should have been done to try to save her daughter's life.

Unwell

Evelyn started feeling unwell around the previous Christmas while staying at her aunt Janet's house where she was living while she studied at Hereford College of Arts.

Dudley Coroner's Court heard that Evelyn, who had previously attended Cradley High School and Halesowen College, had been diagnosed with sinusitis.

She was given antibiotics but Mrs Purchase told an inquest the medic requested she resisted taking the drug for a few days to see if she would get better without needing them. But, after going back to stay with her mother and sister Dana at the family home in Cradley, her condition did not improve.

She started to take the drug when she moved back to Hereford to restart college but it gave her side-effects which required a further prescription on March 28.

She had lost lose her appetite and had developed mouth ulcers and impetigo.

In desperation her mother called the health advice number NHS 111 on April 4 before deciding to take her up to see the out-of-hours GP at Dudley's Holly Hall Clinic. They were able to go in to see Dr Mahmud Ahmed at 9.58pm, Dudley Coroner's Court was told on Monday. He consulted notes sent to him following the conversation with the operator on the advice line which highlighted concerns about whether she was 'starving herself'.

Mr Balmain questioned why Dr Ahmed had not recorded her pulse rate or respiratory levels on the medical records but he said both were within normal levels.

Dr Ahmed said: "I did not check her oxygen levels as she was not unduly short of breath. I thought that the infection was not so serious for her to be admitted to hospital. I thought that she could be treated as an outpatient with a strong antibiotic."

Mrs Purchase had gone out on the night of April 5 to celebrate her birthday in London only after checking her eldest daughter was okay. Her ex-husband David had come to stay. But she arrived back home at around 4.50am on April 6 to find her daughter lying on the bed with the phone in her hand.

Giving evidence at the inquest, Mrs Purchase said: "I'm not saying that she wasn't treated but she was not treated appropriately for her condition and, as a consequence, she died on my bed, in my bedroom, in unbelievably bad circumstances.

"If she had been placed into hospital she would have had the opportunity to fight for her life.

Cause of death was given as extensive bilateral pneumonia with pulmonary abscesses as a contributing factor.

Mr Balmain, concluding the inquest, said: "This is a tragedy.

"This is the death of a young girl at the start of her adult life.

"It seems to me that what went on during the course of that examination was probably incomplete."



Promising Cradley art student Evelyn Purchase, right, who died at her family home after being sent home after seeing an out-of-hours GP, is pictured with her younger sister Dana



Sketch – a self-portrait by Evelyn, who has died aged just 20

Father in robbery of driver is jailed

A FATHER-of-two who robbed a taxi driver of mobile phones and a sat nav, leaving him fearing for his life, has begun a three-year jail term.

Shane Hickinbottom had spent the night drinking with friends and taking cocaine before getting in a Hackney carriage, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mr Nicholas Cartwright, prosecuting, said the 28-year-old directed the taxi driver Manohar Lal from Jews Lane, in Lower Gornal to a block of flats in Tipton.

He said Hickinbottom had asked to use the driver's mobile phone but was refused. The court heard that Hickinbottom then became aggressive and ended up snatching the phone and demanding to go to another address.

Mr Cartwright said he refused to hand the phone back when asked and hurled racial abuse at the driver, who then drove to a car park in Wordsworth Close.

He told the court that Hickinbottom then spotted another mobile phone in the taxi and helped himself. Mr Cartwright said he had punched and kicked the victim to get his car keys and he snatched a sat nav.

He said: "The defendant said he had a gun and he would shoot. The defendant got out of the car telling the driver not to contact the police as he had a brother who also had a gun," Mr Cartwright added.

Hickinbottom then ran off with the stolen items but was later tracked down by police and arrested following the incident on June 11.

Pub scheme green light

A FORMER pub will be converted into a three-bed flat, after plans were given the go-ahead by council officers.

The scheme is for the Beech Tree pub on Gorsty Hill Road, Rowley Regis.

Plans have been submitted by jab architectural design based in Sutton Coldfield.

The pub is on the junction with Halesowen Street, where the Sainsbury's supermarket is.

The scheme will include the partial demolition of the old women's toilets which are inside the venue.

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Corks pop to celebrate as vineyard is still growing

A VINEYARD is reaping the rewards of the 2013 harvest with the expansion of its Halfpenny Green premises – despite a disappointing season for vineyards across the country just two years ago.

Bosses at Halfpenny Green Vineyards, near Bobbington, are expanding both the winery, where they will be offering guided tours and a private dining facility, as well as doubling the size of the farm shop.

The vineyard enjoyed a bumper crop in 2013 which has seen it produce 80,000 bottles of its own wine and 120,000 bottles for other growers.

Shop

The business was first established by Martin Vickers – an arable farmer who had the insight to plant half an acre of his land with vines. Today the third generation business is owned by son Clive Vickers and his wife Lisa.

The couple have continued to develop the business which as well as the vineyard, including wine tasting, a tea room and restaurant, large retail farm shop, a selection of arts and crafts outlets and three fishing lakes.The business now employs 45 staff.

Clive Vickers said: "I'm proud that as a boutique vineyard, our grapes are processed and bottled within fifty yards of where they are picked. This continues to ensure we provide a quality wine. Perceptions of English wine have changed over the years with more and more people purchasing it."

Finance for the expansion including the purchase of a new press and wine tanks has been provided by Barclays.

Library loan e-books too

MORE than 2,000 e-books are available for loan from a borough's libraries website as part a scheme to get people reading.

People registered with Dudley's libraries service can now browse the e-books site. They can also preview some of the books online and add books to a newly created wish list, before logging in.

Books can be downloaded to e-readers, computers or other suitable devices connected to the internet.

For more details on the free e-book service, go to www.dudley.gov.uk/libraries

Hospital deny claims on restraining patients

A WHISTLEBLOWER has accused Dudley's hospital trust of restraining patients against their will. Bosses at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall, 'emphatically refute' claims that patients had been unlawfully restrained.

The Care Quality Commission is looking into the allegations, following a request from the Department of Health.

Former head of security at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, John Marchant, has made the claims. He had the role for more than 10 years before being made redundant in December 2012.

Mr Marchant called in top barristers from London to give him advice on his concerns. Methods allegedly used ranged from telling someone to go back to their bed, to pushing a patient back into their room or holding the door closed so they could not leave, he said.

Elderly

Mr Marchant said: "In many cases we are talking about patients known as 'bed blockers', elderly people unable to return home or with no residential care unit to go to.

In these cases detention is being used simply because the patient becomes so frustrated at not even being able to go out for a walk in the hospital grounds because there are no staff to accompany them. Some would go back to their rooms if you asked them but others would have to be closed in and it would be very distressing for them," he claimed.

Paula Clark, chief executive of the trust, said: "We emphatically refute the suggestion that we have ever unlawfully restrained patients. The health and wellbeing of our patients is our absolute priority. It is our priority not to restrain patients.

"In the very small instances where this is necessary, it is to prevent harm to patients. We adopt a reasonable and proportionate approach that reflects our Restraint of Adult Patient Policy. Two years ago security staff expressed concern about being asked to restrain patients without a mental capacity assessment being carried out. We offered them our assurance that dynamic mental capacity assessments were always undertaken.

"We continue to improve our practice and training around caring for patients who lack capacity either temporarily or ongoing," added Ms Clark.

A spokesperson for the Department of Health said: "These are very serious allegations and we have passed this information to the Care Quality Commission for further investigation."

Father in 102mph chase with children in the car

A FATHER led police on a 102mph chase with his three children strapped in the back seat, before hitting another car.

Jason Thomas raced through roads at deadly speeds. He weaved in and out of traffic and travelled along the hard shoulder hurtling through a red light before smashing into another car.

Video taken from the police car chasing him, shows him making a half-hearted attempt to run off, leaving his three children. His partner was also in the car at the time.

Risk

Police said that 33-year-old Thomas, of Dudley, had put hundreds of lives at risk with his shocking driving.

He had picked his children up from school at 3.30pm on September 30 in his silver Vauxhall Vectra when he was pursued by officers who suspected him of carrying drugs.

After the chase – which lasted up to 10 minutes – Thomas, of Blowers Green Road, was arrested when officers wrestled him to the ground as he made an attempt to run off across a dual carriageway.

He was jailed for 22 months after admitting dangerous driving at Worcester Crown Court last week.

Sentencing him, Judge Michael Cullum said: "The high speed while undertaking on the hard shoulder is shocking. All the while, you were putting at risk of serious injury or worse, hundreds of people.

"In some ways, the most shocking thing about the whole episode was when, having crashed, the rear door of your vehicle opened and out stretched the arm of your young child. What sort of person drives like that with their own three children and their partner in that vehicle?"

"You didn't wait to see how the people in the other vehicle were. You even ran away from your own family."



Jailed – Jason Thomas

Police had flashed their lights at Thomas and indicated for him to stop. The two-minute recording shows the Vectra tearing up the M5 and even attempting to run the police car off the road.

Thomas is seen leaving the motorway then hurtling along country lanes near Hagley. Seconds later Thomas hit a Toyota, carrying a man and his 80-year-old mother, who was hurt in the crash.

The court heard it was Thomas's sixth conviction for dangerous driving and that he was already driving whilst disqualified and without insurance. He had 11 previous convictions for driving while disqualified. Thomas was jailed for 18 months for dangerous driving and four months consecutively for driving while disqualified. He was also disqualified from driving for 10 years.

PTA is back at school

A PRIMARY school in Dudley has relaunched its Parent Teacher Association after a decade.

Dudley Wood Primary, in Dudley Wood Road, Netherton, has recruited around 14 parents and grandparents, as well as staff, to get the organisation off the ground again.

Funds

PTA spokesman Lisa Marsh said: "I don't really know why the PTA closed before – possibly because people were too busy to get involved.

"But some of the teachers mentioned they were trying to get it reformed, after 10 years without it, to raise funds for the school and get more parents involved."

So far the school has held a disco and it also staged a Christmas fair last month.

The PTA hopes the fair will be the first of many such fundraising events at the school.

Around 14 parents and grandparents and some of the teachers, as well as the school secretary, were involved in the event in a bid to try to raise as much money as possible for the school.



Pupils Kyle Fleet and Tanya Malpass, both aged 10, look forward to a new school PTA with teacher Kim Maskery with parents teachers and pupils behind the association

NEWS in brief

Objections to new crossing at college

A PROPOSAL for a pedestrian crossing for students at a newly-built college campus has been met with opposition from nearby residents.

Dudley College want to introduce the traffic-light controlled crossing in The Broadway in Dudley, opposite the Evolve campus. But the crossing will create noise disturbance and traffic queues, according to residents who have written to Dudley Council to object.

The council is expected to make a decision in the coming weeks.

Knife threat by a phone robber

A MAN terrorised two teenage brothers, telling them he was armed with a knife before stealing their mobile phones.

The brothers, aged 15 and 17, were walking along Mill Street, Brierley Hill, when they were approached by the man.

Detective Constable Nick Slym said: "Although neither of the brothers were hurt, this was a frightening robber."

The robber was aged between 20 and 25, had a pockmarked face and a thin moustache.

Sharp intake of breath for ladies

MEMBERS of a village women's group may make a sudden intake of breath as they hear a talk about corsets.

Corsetry will be the subject of the first meeting of the year for Hagley Afternoon Women's Institute on Monday, January 13.

Members will also be encouraged to enter a limerick competition about underwear with the first line starting 'A pretty young lady from...'

Blackbirds are on WI's agenda

BLACKBIRDS will be the subject for Clent Women's Institute's first meeting of the year.

Robert Barber will talk about 'A Blackbird's Tale' at the event, at the Parish Hall in Clent, near Stourbridge, tonight, Thursday, at 7.30pm.

Members will also be able to enter photographs of birds for a competition.

Join pathfinders

A GUIDED walk through picturesque countryside will take place on January 16. People should meet at The Dog Inn, Dunley, near Stourport at 10.30am. It is organised by the Rock Pathfinders group.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



TIP for 2014. Don't get too excited over reports that Britain will have the biggest economy in Europe within 15 years, as some pundits are predicting. It is perfectly possible to live in a truly massive economy and still be very, very poor. Ask anyone in China.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

THIS year marks the beginning of the commemoration of the First World War. Prepare for a creeping barrage of commemoration, comment and endless re-examination. But I guarantee nothing you see in 2014 will capture the black humour of the Tommies of 1914-18 better than John Jackson's tale of being buried alive by German shells. It's in his memoir, Private 12768, which was written in 1926 and published 80 years later. Jackson describes how the shells came ever closer until two dugouts full of British soldiers were obliterated by direct hits. Miraculously, all the Tommies survived and dug themselves out. As he puts it: "What lucky lads we were. Fourteen buried and all alive and kicking at the end of the funeral."

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

JACKSON'S words reminded me of my grandfather's war diary for 1919. He was with the Army of Occupation in Germany and had been gassed a few months earlier. A sudden dose of pneumonia almost killed him. Or as he recorded dryly: "That was when I nearly became a German landowner."

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

ONE New Year's resolution I shall try to follow: Think more positively about food banks. My initial reaction in 2013 was that there was a political agenda at work. How better to embarrass the Government than to set up hundreds of food banks and arrange photo-opportunities of hungry Brits queuing for their daily bread? It still strikes me as a rather American solution, designed to slap a sticking plaster over the problem than to tackle some of the social evils causing poverty – 24-hour boozing, online gambling and payday loans, for a start. But if kind people are prepared to donate food for the poor, and if charities are prepared to hand it out and if other people are willing to accept it, maybe we should applaud it, as we applaud other charities. Who knows, maybe this is David Cameron's "Big Society" in action.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Author's insight into what made Steve McQueen tick

UNHAPPY with the way his latest movie was going, and troubled by his own infidelities, Steve McQueen asked his wife Neile Adams if she had ever betrayed him. She insisted she hadn't.

Report by Mark Andrews

Unconvinced, he made her take cocaine, and continued with his interrogation, until eventually she confessed to a one-night stand. Then, in a state of fury, he produced a pistol, and pointed it at her head until she revealed the name of the man with whom she had cheated.

Frightened

Behind those piercing blue eyes and effortless magnetism lay a troubled and insecure individual, whose frailties are laid bare in a dramatic new book by Black Country author Richard Sydenham.

Sydenham, a 39-year-old father-of-two from Cradley Heath, has spent 17 years researching his 619-page book Steve McQueen: The Cooler King.

The book, released to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Great Escape film reveals how McQueen's rugged faced masked a paranoid and sometimes violent man, scarred by the maternal neglect he experienced as a child, and fearful that one day his career would come crashing down.

"The only thing Steve was ever secure about was his appeal to women," says Hollywood veteran Robert Vaughn, in his foreword for the book. "Steve was a frightened man about all sorts of things from money, stardom, life in general, but he was especially insecure about his stardom."

Vaughn, who appeared alongside McQu-een in three movies, remembers how his friend had an obsessive rivalry with leading man Yul Brynner during the filming of The Magnificent Seven. "He was constantly knocking on my door at six in the morning and he'd say, about Brynner, 'Did you see how big his gun was? Did you see how big his horse was? He was always worried Yul was going to steal the film from him."

McQueen's philandering was the stuff of legend. The book reveals on one occasion McQueen accosted a pretty girl in the street with the line 'I'm Steve McQueen, let's go and have a little bit,' and she immediately jumped onto the back of his motorcycle. Yet paradoxically, Sydenham says he was always a committed family man, who felt a great bond of loyalty to all three of his wives.

Sydenham believes it was his own guilt, which would often weigh down heavily on his shoulders, which led to the incident with the gun during the filming of his troubled 1971 motor-racing movie, Le Mans. "Steve could not understand that she knew of so many affairs that he had had over the course of their marriage, yet remained faithful to him," says Sydenham.

Shortly after, at their chateau in France, Neile discovered she was pregnant with their third child, and McQueen ordered her to have an abortion, saying he could not be sure the child was his. Neile's confession would ultimately spell the end of their marriage, and the couple were divorced after 16 years in 1972.

During the writing of the book, Sydenham managed to persuade Jacqueline Bisset to break her silence about rumours that she had an affair with McQueen when they appeared together in Bullitt. "No, we did not have an affair," says Bisset, now 69. "Yes he was handsome and there was a little bit of teasing, but nothing happened."

During the making of The Thomas Crown Affair, McQueen's obsession with detail drove the crew to distraction.

He tried on four different wristwatches, and hated them all, and eventually it was agreed that McQueen's own watch looked better on him than any of the expensive ones that had been purchased for the sharp-suited character.

The next day, McQueen dumbfounded the production team by issuing them with a 250 dollar bill for the rental of his watch.

In The Towering Inferno, he insisted that the brim on his fireman's helmet should be cut back so it would not cast a shadow on his eyes.

"He was told that if they changed his they'd have to change everyone's," says co-star Susan Blakely. He said: 'Then change 'em!'"



Frailties laid bare – Steve McQueen in The Magnificent Seven



Co-star Jacqueline Bisset



Richard Sydenham with his book

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Decision to lift ban on fishing is vindicated

THE decision to lift a ban on fishing at a Grade I listed park has been hailed a success with wildlife continuing to thrive, say council bosses.

Anglers were able to return to The Leasowes in Halesowen in February last year.

The pool at the 67-hectare site had been closed for two years after fears it had been overused. There had also been problems with wildlife being injured, littering and illegal night fishing.

Dudley Council decided to ban fishing at the spot for two years to allow the pool and the surrounding area to recover. But environment boss Councillor Tracy Wood said that there had been no problems since the ban was lifted.

A closed season between March and June will remain in place at the Leasowes. This aims to ensure fish stocks are replenished through re-stocking and breeding.

Councillor Wood said: "At Leasowes we lifted the total suspension on fishing around 12 months ago which has gone well. It is important that we maintain a closed season for a period of time between March and June to allow wildlife to thrive and recover.

"It also ensures fishing remains sustainable on the site."

Owner shocked at damage caused by attack on yard

ARSONISTS attacked a reclamation yard in Halesowen, causing thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Vandals struck at ADS Demolition in Park Lane where they started two separate fires. A cherry picker and a storage unit along with its contents were destroyed in the blaze, leaving a charred mess behind.

Owner Steve Davis estimated more than £8,000 of damage has been caused by the arson attack.

A police investigation is under way and an appeal for witnesses has been launched.

by Heather Large

Ruined

Mr Davis received a call from the security company at around 9pm on Boxing Day alerting him to the blaze. He said he was shocked by the extent of damage at the site.

Mr Davis, who has owned the business for 18 months, said the contents of the storage unit had been destroyed. Inside were tools including a concrete floor saw as well as ladders and reclaimed items such as doors, worth thousands of pounds.

He said the cherry picker alone would cost around £3,000 to replace.

"They started two fires. They set the cherry picker alight and the storage unit," he said. "I don't know why they would do this. I don't think I have ever done anything to any one to deserve this to happen to me.

"It's caused a lot of damage and lot of the items are ruined. There is no reason for it. It's just malicious" he added.

West Midlands Police spokesman Lee Page confirmed officers at Brierley Hill police station were investigating the blaze.

He said: "We do not have much to go on as there are no witnesses or CCTV. There are no forensics opportunities either so we are appealing for anyone who saw anything to get in touch."

Fire crews from Brierley Hill and Cradley Heath were called out to the blaze.

A £1,000 reward is being for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible. Witnesses or anyone with information about the arson attack are asked to call police on 101.

It is the latest in a spate of arson attacks to be reported around the Black Country.



'Malicious' – fire damage at the ADS Demolition reclamation yard in Halesowen where two blazes were started

NEWS in brief

More police to protect children

A POLICE unit dealing with sexual offences and child exploitation is to increase officers from 480 to 800 due to a rise in reported crimes.

The Public Protection Unit at West Midlands Police will undergo the changes from May, to finish by December. There will be a dedicated domestic abuse team based at each Local Policing Unit, as well extended child abuse teams.

Dean sticks neck out with proposal

WHEN Dean Wood dreamt of his perfect proposal, he knew he would be sticking his neck out to ensure his childhood sweetheart said yes.

As Katherine Spooner was mad on giraffes he decided to get down on one knee at Dudley Zoo. Luckily she agreed to marry him. Mr Wood, from Barns Lane, Rushall, Walsall, spent weeks planning the proposal.

Jobhunters get funds for clothes

MORE than £850,000 was spent kitting out job hunters with new clothes and paying for their travel to interviews.The bill for the Black Country, Staffordshire and Shropshire was £850,553. It means more than £16,000 of public money is spent locally every week to help unemployed people find work.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW WITH MARK ANDREWS



HOT on the heels of shadow transport minister Mary Creagh's outburst at the apparent sexism of Thomas the Tank Engine, it now appears that another inhabitant of the Westminster bubble has been spending a little too much time in the children's library again.

This time it's independent consultant Caroline Shenton, who has been commissioned to come up with how to turn the Houses of Parliament into a 'visitor attraction'. Her proposal is for a Willy Wonka-style great glass elevator on the side of the Victoria Tower.

I know politicians love banging on about 'transparency', but this is ridiculous.

❐❐❐❐❐

WHEN they said we're all in this together, it never for one moment occurred to me that would extend to ladies and gentleman of the Bar.

No, not that kind of bar. A group of our learned friends were out on strike this week, manning the picket lines in their full clobber, gowns, winged-collars, and wigs, the whole shebang.

Cuts to the legal aid budget has apparently left some of them struggling to get by, says Mr Nigel Lithman QC, who appears to be a sort of shop steward for m'learned friends. He warns that unless barristers are paid more, many of us will soon find ourselves living next door to paedophiles and rapists because there will be nobody to prosecute them. Not that he would want to cause any undue alarm, you understand.

Needless to say, there have been bitter arguments about how much barristers actually earn. Justice Secretary Chris Grayling says they typically earn £84,000 a year. Mr Lithman - doesn't he sound like he should be a judge on X Factor? - says it is closer to £37,000.

I'm sure they would agree, though, that there's only one way to settle this. Full public inquiry, led by a top judge, senior silks on either side, and wigs all round.

What do we want? An independent inquiry. When do we want it? In the fullness of time.

❐❐❐❐❐

IT would take a heart of stone not to see the funny side of the ship full of global-warming fans who set sail to Antarctica to investigate the disappearing ice cap - and ended up getting stuck in it.

At the time of writing, their ship has been stuck in the 'vanishing' ice for 10 days, as is the Chinese ice-breaker ship sent out to rescue them. Eventually they were freed by a third ship, an Australian icebreaker.

Quite how many hydrocarbons have been emitted during this ill-fated school field trip, but I suspect it will take quite a few low-energy light bulbs and cycle trips by the time we're finished.



Setting standards – Brett with community champion Nick Sutcliffe at the bakery



Lorries at the Wednesbury bakery which produces two million loaves a week

Using their loaf to keep it in the family

IT IS ONE of the largest bakeries in the UK, employing 4,500 staff – including 430 from its base in Wednesbury

And no matter what type of bread you eat at home, you are bound to have heard of the Warburtons brand.

The family-run business is as synonymous with the shopping list as Cadbury chocolate and Tetley tea, and ever since its beginnings in 1876 it is still going strong.

Thomas Warburton and his wife Ellen first opened their grocery shop in 1870, and during a slump in the grocery market in 1876, Ellen started baking bread.

Her first batch of four loaves of bread and six cakes sold out in under an hour and within two weeks the tiny shop in Bolton was renamed 'Warburtons the Bakers' and continued to go from strength to strength.

More than 130 years later the company is still in the hands of the family, run by fifth generation family members Jonathan, Ross and Brett Warburton.

Integral

And family values very much remain an integral part of the business, Brett Warburton said during a visit to the Wednesbury bakery. "I'm fifth generation and it is still very much a family business. Not only in terms of its ownership, but also in terms of its ethos. We pride ourselves on being a family business. There are still three family members on the board – myself, Jonathan and Ross."

The Wednesbury base, in Moorcroft Drive, produces two million loaves a week and serves around 2,000 shops, 24 hours a day, 363 days a year.

It closes only for Christmas Day and Easter. Brett said the brand is often quoted as being one of the top three in the country behind Coca Cola and Walkers, and it aims to treat staff as part of one big family. As such, it runs a scheme called community giving, investing in schemes as well as donating products to the local community.



Brett Warburton proudly views the fruits of his company's labour as he visited the Wednesbury site, which employs 430

"We like to think we treat our people well and want our business to operate as a large family. We first set foot outside Lancashire in 1984 and we have grown that on quality of production and quality of service. We are very lucky to have a lot of people who have worked for the business for a very long time," Brett added.

Nick Sutcliffe is the community champion at Wednesbury and explained the company invests in a number of ways. Under financial giving, the company donates small amounts of money to purchase specific pieces of equipment.

Last year more than £20,000 was donated in the West Midlands supporting a range of activities, as well as hundreds of thousands of pounds more to the charitable sector. In addition, around £27,000 of products were given to one-off events such as church events, breakfast clubs, and Ronald McDonald House in Birmingham for families of patients in hospitals and hospices.

Meanwhile, the company also has an investment programme where it gets employees into the community. In one case it has teamed up with the RSA Academy in Tipton and has this year been working with business students on the international baccalaureate. Brett added: "Where we used to just give someone a cheque and move on we like to get involved with the people that we work with."

People can apply for support from the firm's financial giving scheme, which is aimed at supporting projects, activities and organisations that have charitable aims and will be of real direct benefit to local communities. Visit **www.warburtons.co.uk** to find out more.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A JOB centre was besieged by hundreds of people applying for work at the Austin Rover car plant in Longbridge. Job-hunters defied the snow and rain and started queuing outside the employment exchange in Northfield before it had opened. Around 600 people applied for fewer than 400 posts. But it was all in vain as the positions were already filled.

A POLICE sergeant was wounded by a Zulu spear when a man thrust it through a bedroom door during a house siege in Birmingham. A 34-year-old man, who was eventually persuaded to come out after seven hours, was detained under the Mental Health Act.

1993...

CORONATION Street actress Anne Kirkbride was set for a return to the cobbles after recovering from throat cancer. The actress, who played Deirdre Barlow had a lump removed from her neck.

EDUCATION Secretary John Patten revealed that he had been 'flogged' from time to time at his strict Jesuit school. But despite this experience, he said he regretted that the cane had been banned by European court rulings as he launched a new crackdown on bullying and racial harassment in schools.

THE world of cricket was mourning the death of commentator Brian 'Johnners' Johnston, at the age of 81. His double act with Henry 'Blowers' Blofeld on Test Match Special, which frequently made much use of schoolboy humour, would often leave listeners, not to mention himself, in fits of giggles.

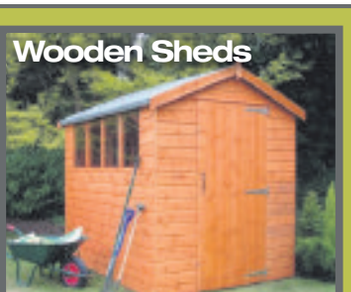
2003...

SEVERAL shops were forced to close as Brierley Hill town centre was overcome with a swarm of rats. In scenes reminiscent of the Pied Piper, one woman walking along Pearson Street turned round to discover she was being followed by around half a dozen rodents.

BRITNEY Spears' whirlwind marriage was set to end as suddenly as it began, with reports that she was trying to get her vows annulled within hours of making them at Las Vegas' Little White Chapel. Sources said the 5.30am ceremony, where she was walked down the aisle by a barman, was a joke which had gone too far.

A MOTHER and son were rescued from a house in Wolverhampton after an electric blanket being used to heat home brew caught fire. Assistant divisional fire officer David Glenis warned that electric blankets should never be used in this way.

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LETTERS

Lack of hospital buses is proving a real sickener

MY husband and I have just returned from an appointment at New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.

We chose to use public transport as parking is usually quite difficult and the cost high. We were shocked to discover that even though this is a huge hospital split into several zones there are very few buses serving it.

To travel to and from Wolverhampton bus station there is just one bus every hour, or if you are prepared (or able) to walk quite some distance to the other side of the hospital there is one that comes every half an hour on the return journey. There appears to be no services on Sundays. We had to wait 45 minutes as the bus was late anyway.

There are a number of buses that pass the entrance but if you are incapacitated it is a long walk from there to your hospital department. It is now clear why parking is an issue as there seems to be no other way for some people to get there.

J JAMES, Wordsley

Bring Bratch to former glory

I WOULD like to draw your attention to the old Bratch Pumping Station in Bratch Lane, Wombourne. To me it seems such a crime to let the beautiful old steam engines be left to rust away, after the care and attention they had from Friends of the Bratch, which was disbanded after Severn Trent shut the station down.

J TURNER, Orton Lane, Wombourne

Message to woman who stole girl's scarf

I HOPE the middle-aged well-dressed woman, who claimed the Burberry scarf left in River Island at Merry Hill on Friday, December 27, at approx 5pm, was her scarf is enjoying the gift she stole.

She must have been watching as my granddaughter misplaced the scarf whilst trying on a coat, saw us leave the store and saw the assistant take the scarf behind the counter.

Within ten minutes we returned to the store to be told the scarf has been claimed by this woman just five minutes earlier. How despicable. This was my 14-year-old daughter's Christmas present and she is devastated. I hope this woman can live with her conscience.

CCTV footage has been observed and the police informed. Hopefully what goes around comes around.

HALESOWEN READER, name and address supplied

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Car wash start-ups raise a few questions

REF a letter sent in by L Handley regarding car wash concerns, Halesowen Chronicle November 28. He has raised a very good point

Like him, I have noticed that so many of these are starting up, the people operating then are usually foreigners.

Everything I sell I have to issue a receipt, these people do not. So my point is, do these people adhere to health and safety requirements, as i have to, and is any check carried out to ensure that they do comply?

Also, are the chemicals used for washing the vehicles adhering to environmental guidelines?

As it is all cash, do they supply detailed accounts to the income tax and national insurance people, are they monitored?

Are they, or the people working for them, on benefits and do they declare all the income they are receiving for working at such places?

It will be interesting to see what response this brings.

COLIN GRIFFIN, Sealine Support Services Litd, sent via email

Total more than £25k is raised for appeal

ON BEHALf of Quarry Bank branch of the Royal British Legion, I would like to thank the people of Quarry Bank and Brierley Hill for their very generous donations for the 2013 Poppy appeal.

Thank you to Asda Brierley Hill, Sainsbury's Merry Hill and the Merry Hill Centre for their support, also all the schools, shops, pubs, clubs and factories for having collection boxes on their premises. A very big thank you to our volunteer collectors who have helped us collect the magnificent total of £25,548.89 for this year's Poppy Appeal.

The Royal British Legion are proud to be the number one charity providing welfare, comradeship and representation to the whole of the Armed Forces community. With your support we will continue to support those in needives.

E HOMER Branch Secretary, Halesowen

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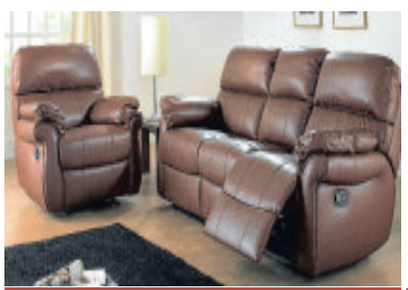
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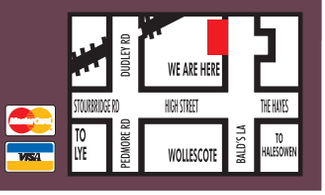
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CLUB NEWS

Cheque for £500 given out

MARY STEVENS HOSPICE LUNCHEON CLUB

THE Christmas lunch was held at The Granary Hotel and Restaurant, Shenstone in December.

Nearly 60 members enjoyed a traditional Christmas meal in a room appropriately decorated.

The speaker was Simon Ward, the food and beverages manager at the hotel. He has a passion for wine and has his own company "Glory of Wine Tastings" to promote knowledge and understanding of good wine.

He told the story of producing champagne and recommended suitable wines to accompany a Christmas meal. Members were invited to partake in the tasting of a port produced in the Douro Valley in Portugal.

The club meets four times a year at the Granary and Barbara Julian was able to present Geoff Wakeman, a member of the Hospice Board, with a cheque for £500, which brought the total donated by the luncheon club to £20,000 since the club was formed.

Geoff thanked the members for their generosity reminding them that the running costs of the hospice were more than £2m a year.

The next meeting will be on Thursday March 13 and anyone interested in joining can obtain more details from Barbara on 01384 295848.

Rise and decline of carpet industry

K'FORD LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE

ON December 12, chairman Sheila Evans welcomed all to the last meeting of the year, the grand Christmas party.

Also in attendance was the company secretary to the charity which supports the Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa, who had come to collect blankets knitted or crocheted by group members, Ladies of Saint Michael's Church, Himley, and the ladies of Kinver Church.

Following an update on progress made at the hospital, the ladies then enjoyed a sumptuous buffet prepared by the committee and to receive an extravagant raffle prize.

On November 7, Melvin Thompson, gave a detailed account on the rise and decline of the carpet industry in Kidderminster.

The next meeting will be at 7.45pm on February 6 at the Royal British Legion, Kingswinford.

The Christmas party goes with a swing

HALESOWEN PENSIONERS (WMPC)

THE last meeting was the Christmas party. Nevertheless, speaker, Mr Brendan Clifford, assistant director of Dudley Social Services (Adult Services) gave a very informative and interesting talk on what mental strategies should be adopted to help maintain good mental, as well as physical health.

He also explained the history of provisions of care by local authorities since 1948, and gave a brief outline of the proposed legislation of the 2015 Care Bill. He explained how attitudes have changed both by the care providers and people receiving care and now emphasis is placed on providing care on an individual bases, giving more choice. As is usual, there were long discussions, which served to inform everyone about present problems and how best to resolve them.

The party afterwards went with a swing.

The next meeting will be on January 17 from 10.15am to 12.30pm at the Shenstone Theatre in Halesowen Library. Entrance is free, there will be tea and biscuits and plenty of chat.

Officers re-elected at AGM

KINGSWINFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AT the AGM in December the following officers were re-elected: chairman – Brenda Arthur, membership secretary – Ena Jones, programme secretary – Betty Holding, treasurer – Ron Julian and committee member Joyce Burns.

The chairman appealed for additional committee members, failing which the future of the society would have to be considered. It was founded in 1991 and it was hoped that it would be able to continue.

The formal part of the evening was followed by a presentation by Bill Devitt on the 'Orient Express'.

The evening concluded with refreshments and wine to end the year's meetings.

The meeting on Monday February 3 sees a return of Dr Paul Collins presenting 'By Tram from Dudley'.

New members and visitors are welcome. Call Ron Julian 01384 295848.

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NEWS

Peggy dedicates 60 years to German shepherd dogs



Halesowen dog lover Peggy Jinks, 90, with her six-year-old German shepherd Carly



Peggy in her 20s with her dog Mandy

PEGGY Jinks has devoted almost 60 years of her life to breeding and caring for her German shepherd dogs.

But the tables were turned on the popular dog lover when fellow enthusiasts and friends threw a party marking her 90th birthday and achievements.

Members of the Birmingham south branch of the British Association for German Shepherd Dogs organised the party at the Tipton Sports and Social Club. They even had a birthday cake made in her honour, complete with a photograph showing her in her 20s with her first German shepherd, called Mandy.

Peggy joined the association in 1953 and retired as branch secretary in 2012. "The breed are so loveable and you can train them to do anything you want. I would not swap them for any other breed," said Peggy, of Middle Tree Road, Halesowen.

She joined the branch after being persuaded by her friend Marie O'Grady. They originally met on land where the Pebble Mill Studios once stood in Edgbaston.

The group, which now has around 40 members, runs dog obedience training for puppies and older dogs. It is now based at Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy, in Tividale.

Peggy has looked after 10 dogs over the years but did not think that she would have another after losing 13-year-old Ellie four-and-a-half years ago. But six months later her friends found an abandoned German shepherd and Peggy agreed to take her in and named her Carly.

Among Peggy's roles at the branch was to organise an annual open dog obedience show for the branch at Coseley School, attracting more than 1,000 entries every year.

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MEMORY LANE



Oldbury Rep – a scene from Merchant of Venice, 1956



Beginnings – Oldbury Parish Rooms, where it all started



The theatre group in a scene from Red Peppers in 1956



Barlow Playhouse, which is now the Barlow Theatre



A very young Doreen seen on stage at the theatre as Aladdin in 1955

The shows go on



Panto – Georgina Smith and Aiden Colwell



Doreen Bastable, aged 85

THEY HAVE survived a world war and an arson attack which completely gutted their theatre, but as the new year begins, one amateur dramatics group will be celebrating its 75th season.

by Adam Grinsell

Started in 1939, The Oldbury Repertory Players, or Oldbury Rep as they are better known, are currently staging their 490th major production – Jack And The Beanstalk.

Over the years more than 1,000 different people have graced their stage, including three generations of the same families. Relationships have also been forged within the group, with some meeting their spouses on stage.

One of those to meet their partners at the group was Doreen Bastable, aged 85, who has been chairman of the Rep for 35 years and a member for 70 years since she was 15.

Mrs Bastable, from Mucklow Hill in Halesowen, said: "My husband Daniel was a builder, and he helped to make the theatre what it is today – he helped to reconstruct the building when we bought it. We were married in 1959 after I met him a couple of years before when I was performing."

Mr Bastable was also very involved in the reconstruction of the theatre after an arson attack destroyed almost everything in the 1972. Mrs Bastable added: "That was a blow, but we raised ourselves from the ashes."

The Oldbury Repertory Players were formed by the attendees of an elocution night class at Oldbury Technical School just before the outbreak of the Second World War, and started in the Oldbury Parish Rooms.

Their first performance was a self-grown stageshow called Tonight At 7.30, involving various sketches, and they continued right through the war.

"It was a struggle to start with," Mrs Bastable said. "People were being called up to the forces or to do shift work, but we did survive."

As the company continued to grow, it purchased the Methodist Chapel and School in Spring Street, now Spring Walk, in Langley, for £1,700 thanks to an interest free loan from the company's then president CT Barlow.

Over the next few years the chapel was converted into a theatre and in January 1956 opened as The Barlow Playhouse – it is now known as Barlow Theatre, and has its own bar and 173-seat auditorium.

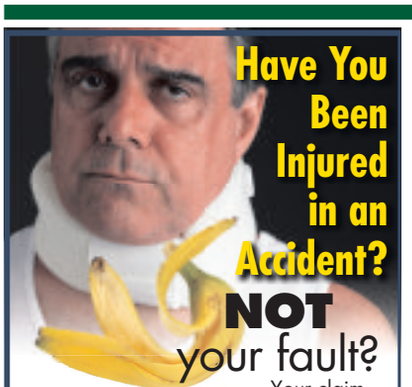
The parents of company secretary Christopher Smith, 56, were founder members of the group, and he also met his wife Lisa there.

His daughters Cassandra and Georgina have both performed with the group too – Georgina is playing the Princess in the latest production.

He said: "The company gives you a comradeship, it's a friendship – we have a great social life with things like quiz nights, so it's not just about rehearsing and putting on plays."

Company members, which in the past have included Old Hill comedienne and former Eastenders actress Josie Lawrence in their ranks, also build the sets, do the lighting, work behind the bars and do the marketing. It receives no grants, so the only way it makes any money is by 'putting bums on seats'.

Jack And The Beanstalk takes place from January 10 to 18. To buy tickets and for more information about the company, including how to become a member, see **www.oldburyrep.org**



















NEWS

Young gymnast's victory is dedicated to grandad



Korben Fellows, aged 11, of Coseley, who has won the Great Britain gymnastics championship for the under-12s

WHEN he had sad news on the eve of competing in a national gymnastics contest, young Korben Fellows vowed: "I'll do it for Grandad."

The 11-year-old from Coseley was devastated when he heard his beloved grandfather, Frank Hale, aged 83, of Moxley, had died. Korben was preparing for the Great Britain under-12s championships in Glasgow when he heard the news.

"Korben cried himself to sleep that night," said his mother Lisa, 41.

"But he said he was going to do it for his grandad and Korben was amazing in the competition."

The talented gymnast scooped gold in the pommel, rings and high bar disciplines. As well as being crowned overall champion, Korben, a Coseley School pupil, won the Nik Stuart award for the 'most amazing talent'.

Korben lives with his parents Wayne and Lisa, brothers Kai, nine, and Klay, six, and sister Keirie, three, in Legg Lane.

Along with his siblings, he attends the City of Birmingham Gymnastics Club. He was talent-spotted at the age of just 18 months by coach Lee Woolls during a play session at Earls High School, Halesowen.



Frank Hale and baby Korben

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Help is at hand for carers of sufferers

LIVING with someone with dementia, or being a family carer who offers support to a loved one will at times be challenging.

You will see a person you care for change, they are likely to become forgetful and may well start to struggle with things that they have done routinely over the years, such as cooking or taking part in ordinary social activities.

There may also be other concerns which you will not have considered in the past; for example how to arrange for care services, which benefits a person with dementia may be entitled to, or discussing plans for the future.

At these times Alzheimer's Society has experienced and trained staff to help you. We have been providing care and support services for people with all types of dementia, their carers and families within the Black Country for almost thirty years.

Alzheimer's Society provides:

● Registered care services, based in people's homes, which give short breaks for carers and meaningful and stimulating activities for people with dementia helping them to maintain a level of independence and to feel less isolated.

● Dementia support workers provide emotional and practical support to carers and family members by helping them to understand dementia, to find coping strategies and to signpost or refer them to other organisations who can provide specialist help and assistance.



The Alzheimer's Society provides both emotional and practical support

● A dementia adviser in Sandwell who works directly with people in the early stages of dementia to make sure they are taking an active role in the community doing things that they enjoy and are meaningful to them.

● Dementia cafés provide a safe place for people with dementia, their families and friends to meet others in a similar situation for information, support and social interaction.

● An information worker in Wolverhampton who delivers presentations about dementia to a range of organisations from community groups and schools to GP surgeries.

For more information please contact Alzheimer's Society Black Country office by emailing blackcountryoffice@alzheimers.org.uk or call 0121 521 3020.

Alzheimer's Society is the UK's leading support and research charity for people with dementia, their families and carers.

NEWS

Steel fund is a boost for blind entrepreneur

FINANCIAL support from UK Steel Enterprise has helped put a disabled business on the road to success and growth in 2014.

When 30-year-old Matthew Carr from Rowley Regis was struggling to raise finance to start up his new business, he was surprised to find that he was eligible for grant funding.

The financial support has enabled him to launch a niche business with huge potential.

Training

Mr Carr identified the fact that there was no one providing specialist training for partially sighted and blind people in how to make full use of an iPad and other IT devices.

After conducting market research and developing a business plan, he approached UK Steel Enterprise for funding to support the launch of Blindability – and is now winning contacts up and down the country.

"Putting it simply, no one else does what I do and there are lots of people that need my help," he said.

"The iPad is a great tool to aid learning, independence and communication for people who are blind and partially sighted, hearing impaired and for people with serious physical disabilities.

"I provide training to teaching and support staff in schools as well as individuals on how to use the iPad along with the accessibility features it contains and with calls coming in all the time I think I'm going to be very busy in 2014," he added.



Blindability's Matthew Carr, front, and Allan Wood of supporters UK Steel Enterprise

Using devices to aid communication is something Mr Carr knows all about. In 2007 he was registered blind due to the effects of retinitis pigmentosa, a condition which he was born with that kills the peripheral cells of the eye. The double blow of having a thinning of the cornea due to keratoconas sped up the onset of blindness.

The Black Country Chamber of Commerce introduced Mr Carr to UK Steel Enterprise, the wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Steel that operates in areas of the UK affected by changes in the steel industry.

UK Steel Enterprise's Kickstart Fund provides grants of up to £500 to start-up businesses to purchase essential equipment and or services that can get them trading.

Allan Wood, regional executive for UK Steel Enterprise said Mr Carr's new business has great potential.

He said: "The expert knowledge that Matthew brings to the business and the market research indicates he is in a great position to target a real niche market. There is every possibility that this entrepreneur could go on to create a thriving and successful business."

Mr Carr used his Kickstart grant to purchase public liability insurance and marketing material.

"I am currently working with schools in Birmingham, Peterborough, Blackburn and London. My equipment is quite technical so I have to have comprehensive insurance."

If you're affected by dementia, Alzheimer's Society in the Black Country is here for you.



The range of services we provide include:

- Home care and support services in Dudley and Sandwell
- Saturday day club in Sandwell
- Dementia Support Workers – available in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton
- Dementia Cafés – operating in Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton

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NEWS

Growing firm will take over locks site

THE SITE of an historic Black Country lock-making firm is being taken over by a growing manufacturing business which will double its workforce, it has emerged.

The former Willenhall Locks factory has been bought by 1st Access UK Ltd which is also based in the town and is investing £100,000 in the first expansion phase.

The firm, set up six years ago by Willenhall-born ex firefighter Jason Loydon and his partner Vikki Lindop, had a £2 million turnover last year and currently employs around 25 workers.

And the pair plan to retain features such as old locks, light switches and pictures to keep the heritage of the former factory alive.

Staffing is anticipated to double within five years as part of the relocation into the bigger former lock firm premises between Stringes Lane and John Harper Street.

The site, which had been put on the market for more than £300,000, was bought for an undisclosed sum ahead of an auction.

Willenhall Locks and Keys Ltd suddenly fell into administration in September, having been a key feature in the town since opening in the late 1950s. The firm specialises in creating roller shutter doors, shopfronts and automatic doors from its current base in Spring Road.

The move will see its floorspace increase from around 8,000 sq ft to 31,000 sq ft.

Only here for the beer, as micro-pubs pull in punters

NO TELEVISIONS, games machines or loud, blaring music, and hot food is certainly off the menu. Micro-pubs are a very different breed to the watering holes of most high streets.

They pride themselves on offering locally brewed real ales and fruity ciders, all in the confines of a single room.

by Laura Blyth

And the concept of sipping pints and rubbing shoulders with the same old faces in the cosy setting of what feels like a front room is growing in popularity up and down the country.

In the past four years, around 40 micro-pubs have flung open their doors to drinkers. Twenty-four have opened in the past 12 months alone.

First

The first micro-pub to open in the West Midlands was Hail to the Ale, in Wolverhampton, run by a married couple who set up their own Morton Brewery six years ago based in Essington.

In its first few months the pub has gone down a storm in the local area, according to owner Gary Morton, aged 53, who runs it with wife Angela, 50.

Mr Morton said: "Micro-pubs are a stripped down version of ordinary pubs. It has been going excellently since we opened.

"We opened our doors quietly on a Thursday evening. Within half an hour, all the tables and chairs were taken.

"The three weekends that followed, we were absolutely packed. People in the area felt something like this was needed. It's comfortable and nostalgic for people.

"I imagine there'll be a couple of thousand more micro-pubs opening in the UK in the next few years."

Rather than chips straight out of the fryer served up in some pubs, Hail to the Ale dishes up traditional pub nibbles such as pork scratchings, pickled onions, pickled eggs and pies. And there isn't a cheap looking alcopop in sight, or any spirits.

Mr Morton continued: "Ordinary pubs try to do too much. They try to cater for too many people and end up not appealing to anyone.

"We came up with the idea to open a micro-pub in March. We'd seen a feature on micro-pubs on TV and thought it was perfect for us.

"We have a good group of regulars. But we are also seeing new faces coming in. It seems as if there are still people just finding out about us. We appeal to middle-aged to elderly people. But we've still had to ask for ID from time-to-time from some younger drinkers."



From left, David Bowden, John Penn and landlord Gary Morton at Hail to the Ale in Tettenhall, Wolverhampton



Angela Morton ready to pull a pint at the micro-pub



Gary and Angela Morton outside their venture in the city

Hospitals get green award

A HOSPITAL trust has been given a top award to reflect its commitment to the environment.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust has been given a Gold Award to commend that 100 per cent of the trust's general waste is recycled.

The award, given by carbon footprint company E2B, shows an improvement on two years ago when the trust was given a Silver Star award for recycling 85 per cent of all waste.

Trust waste manager Simon Sims said: "This award is the result of a lot of hard work by our sustainability champions, but also those who have used our recycling bins."

New car park at tram stop

TRAM users will get a new park and ride service at a station to ease the car-clogged streets of an estate.

The move will see a parking area built close to Bradley Lane Metro Stop in Moxley. Now, the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority, Centro and Walsall Council are looking to carry out a feasibility study for the project on the track between Wolverhampton and Birmingham Snow Hill.

Trust takeover milestone due

A COMMUNITY organisation is celebrating the 10th anniversary of taking over the running of its local park. The Warley Woods Community Trust will be marking the milestone this year with a number of events announced.

CHRONICLE



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NEWS

Quirky Edwardian home has gone on the market



From left, Natalie and Nicolas Cartwrightwith sales negotiator Matthew Cooke, from Andrew Grant estate agents

IT is a house worthy of today's celebrity grand designers – a corner Edwardian home with three octagonal rooms and a swimming pool.

Spire House in Hagley once featured the hallmarks of a modern inventor – a washing machine which doubled as a potato boiler and a dual dishwasher system which meant no plates had to be put away.

It was the home of businessman Geoffrey Cartwright for more than 50 years. Following his death, it is on the market with a guide price of £350,000.

Mr Cartwright's son Nicolas said it was a 'quirky house' which perfectly suited his father.

"My father said he bought the house because he loved its architecture which is quite unusual," he said. "For me, it was a wonderful house to grow up in. It offered many hiding places and a swimming pool in the garden. It will be sad to see it finally leave the family."

Little is known about the first owners of the house or why it was built to its design in 1904.

Among the features are a spire with a weathercock, three octagonal shaped rooms and ornate ridge tiles.

The 'swimming pool, created in a figure-of-eight shape, was added by Mr Cartwright when, soon after moving in, he had a £10 bet with Dr Hansell at Hagley Surgery Practice on who could build a pool the quickest.

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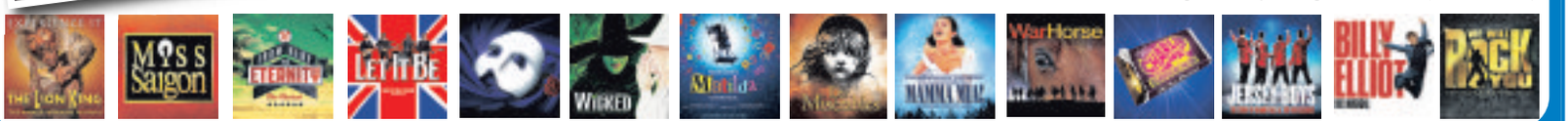
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Withymoor Primary headgirl Kayley Bennett, Savannah Hunt, centre, headboy Sam Lester, with family of Charles Scott and members of the Quarry Bank RBL

Savannah continues family's fundraising

A 'LITTLE ANGEL' has honoured the memory of her great-grandfather by helping ex-servicemen raise thousands of pounds.

Savannah Hunt joined members of Quarry Bank Royal British Legion, including her grandfather Colin, during collection days for this year's Poppy Appeal.

And the nine-year-old was also on hand to present staff and pupils at Withymoor Primary School, Brierley Hill, with this year's Charles Scott Shield at a ceremony.

Amount

The accolade, named in honour of her great-grandfather, is presented to the school which has improved the most on the amount it raised the previous year.

Staff and pupils at Withymoor raised more than £96 for the appeal – more than double the amount they achieved in 2012.

Charles Scott was aged just 20 when he took part in the Normandy landings in 1944 – one of 450 volunteers from the First East Riding Yeomanry sent to the beaches to clear the area for British gliders and planes. More than 15 of his comrades were killed.

Later during the fighting Mr Scott's tank was hit. He survived despite suffering injuries to his face. He was awarded the Queen's Medal for his actions. Upon returning home following the conflict he joined the British Legion and devoted himself to the Poppy Appeal to honour comrades who had not made it home.

He became president of the Quarry Bank branch and raised thousands of pounds for the appeal over the years.

Mr Scott died four years ago but his son, Colin, grandchildren Kerrie and Dean and now his great-granddaughter are continuing his legacy.

Savannah, who attends Peters Hill Primary, plans to continue helping with the appeal. Colin said: "Savannah is now the fourth generation of our family to get involved in helping to raise money for the Poppy Appeal.

"She joins us on the collection days and explains to people what the appeal is all about.

"All of the members love her taking part. She is a little angel and we are very proud she is carrying on a legacy started by her great-grandfather."



Golden memories – Charles Scott proudly holds his great-grandaughter Savannah



Charles Scott pictured in uniform during his Second World War service

More than 800 are on donor list

MORE than 800 people are waiting for organ transplants in the West Midlands – and 17 have died in the region since April while on the waiting list, figures show.

NHS Blood andTransplant wants to encourage more people to sign up to the donor register and discuss the option with their family. There are a total of 554,000 registered donors in the Black Country and 305,000 in Staffordshire.

Fewer than 5,000 people each year die in circumstances where they can donate their organs, meaning there is always a need for more donations.

Ben Cole is a team manager with NHS Blood and Transplant's Midlands organ donation team. He said that when families agree to donation specialist nurses guide them through the process. "We want to ensure that more people get the lifesaving transplant they need,"added Mr Cole.

To join the NHS Organ Donor Register, visit the website www.organdonation. nhs.uk or call 0300 123 23 23.

Meanwhile, Tipton two-year-old boy Gaurav Bains at last got a bone marrow match and his essential operation at Birmingham Children's Hospital just before Christmas.

Young singer is a rising star



Award-winning Holly Wright, aged 13, has sung her way to the final of Teen Star UK

A SCHOOLGIRL is celebrating musical success after winning a top award and making it through to the regional final of a singing competition.

Holly Wright picked up the Performing Arts Award at the Sandwell Star Awards and has also got through to the regional heats of the Teen Star UK open mic competition.

The 13-year-old from Cradley Heath attends Hillcrest School and Community College in Netherton. Mother Michelle, 46, of Forest Drive, Cradley Heath, said: "She was invited to the Sandwell Star Awards and was awarded for performing arts and then she got through to the regional final of Teen Star UK at the NEC.

"She has progressed to the final which is being held in Huddersfield in May. I just don't know where she gets it from."

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NEWS FEATURE

Vision of HS2 stations are brought into focus by images of £50 billion project

THEY will become the heart of HS2 and take nearly a decade to complete with builders moving more than five million tons of earth.

These striking images show what the two new impressive high speed railway stations will look like if the controversial £50 billion project gets the green light.

With a quarter-of-a-mile-long wave-like roof, the huge Curzon Street station will become the biggest building in central Birmingham with a shimmering glass frontage.

It will stretch from Millennium Point to the existing Moor Street station opposite the Bullring Shopping Centre.

There will be seven platforms 1,300ft long – six for domestic train services with the seventh capable for international services to European cities.

The lower eastern entrance will be at ground level from New Canal Street and Curzon Street.

The upper concourse western entrance of the station will join onto Moor Street Queensway at ground level, with a connection to Moor Street station.

Listed

The surviving Grade I listed entrance to the old Curzon Street station built in 1838 will be revived

A masterplan claims the station will play an important part regenerating the east of central Birmingham – creating a 'cultural village' based on 'artistic and creative activities'.

Trains will come in along a viaduct over the Digbeth canal. The structure of the Curzon Street station will take approximately five years to complete starting in 2018. It will take another year to fit it out from 2023 and undergo testing and commissioning until 2026

Rail journey times will be slashed to 49 minutes to London, 38 minutes to Sheffield and 22 minutes from Manchester Airport.

A second station – the new Birmingham Interchange – will be built next to the NEC and Birmingham Airport site near Chelmsley Wood. It will be made up for six tracks and four platforms.

There will also be a 1.5 mile tram-like 'people mover' which will transport people direct to the NEC complex, Birmingham International Station and Birmingham Airport. The station will be approximately 90ft tall and 442ft long and partially located in a 26ft deep cutting. There will be a concourse with shops and information kiosks. International trains will also call at the station.

The 'people mover' will move in a south-west direction crossing over the M42, East Way, Pendigo Lake and the Rugby to Birmingham line before continuing onto Birmingham Airport. It will operate seven days a week, with the first service operating approximately 30 minutes before the



The proposed Curzon Street HS2 station with its wave-like roof would be the biggest building in central Birmingham

departure of the first HS2 train to 15 minutes after the arrival of the last HS2 train. It will be able to transport at least 2,100 passengers in each direction per hour at peak times, running at three minute intervals and speeds of up to 55mph. Waiting times will normally not exceed four minutes but will be up to a maximum of 15 minutes during major NEC events. The journey time from Birmingham Interchange station to Birmingham Airport will be approximately six minutes.

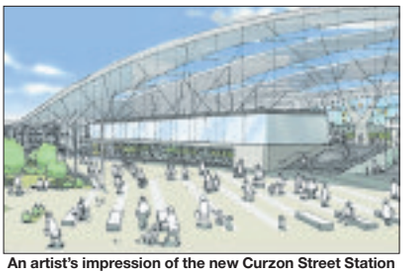
Rail journeys between the Interchange and London will be just 38 minutes from London. Both Birmingham Airport and the NEC Group are big supporters of the scheme.

In the Washwood Heath area of the second city will be a 200ft long train depot. It will operate as the hub for high speed rail maintenance.

The images of the stations are published in the environmental report adjoining the HS2 Hybrid Bill which is going through Parliament.

A consultation on the London to Birmingham leg is due to end on January 26 with campaigners only being given 56 days to read nearly 50,000 pages. HS2 Ltd has said people do not need to read every page – only sections of the report that affect them.

The line, which will see trains travel at speeds of up to 225mph, will cut a 45-mile swathe through rural Staffordshire.



An artist's impression of the new Curzon Street Station



Trains will travel along the Curzon Street canal viaduct



A view of the new city centre rail station from Moor Street



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Mr Bari the owner and staff strive to ensure your dining experience starts from the minute you set foot inside the restaurant. With a stylish licensed bar area for you to wait whilst being shown to your table or to retire to after enjoying your feast, you are able to absorb the atmosphere whilst enjoying traditional Indian beer or a selection from the extensive wine menu.



With a seasonal menu offering a variety of new dishes from which you may struggle to decide which sumptuous dish to choose, the tempting offer which runs from Sunday to Thursday means two people may dine for the price of one on all main dishes between 5pm - 10pm. This offer has returned due to the constant requests from customers who enjoyed the opportunity of being able to dine on a more regular basis due to



the savings. Selections can be made from the Seafood, Classic or the Chef Recommendations whilst also being aware of the New Year Health Kick craze, you can select from the Healthy Options menu.

All dishes are freshly prepared and they are proud to be able to cater for diners who have special dietary requirements. A host of chefs are available to create that special meal for you to enjoy. Appetisers can be ordered from the sharing platter section, allowing diners to taste more than one starter expanding their preference for future dining experience. Simply select your preference and nibble whilst you chat and await to be shown to the area for the main event. This extra time is taken to freshly prepare your dish.

To round off the evening why not choose from the dessert menu which offers both hot and cold dishes from the menu or perhaps select from the traditional Indian sweet options to finish off your meal. Coffee and tea are also served along with an extensive liquor coffee should you wish to round off the evening. With the current offer allowing two dinners to enjoy the selection and pay for just one, now is the time to visit the restaurant between Sunday to Thursday. The restaurant is open as normal for dining on Friday & Saturday when you are able to select from the standard menu or take advantage of the takeaway service.





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NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101**

HI I'm Jo, first timer, newly divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409089**

SUSIE 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408877**

BABS 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407943**

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859**

JOANNA 34, in need of tlc, wining, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408869**

SUE attractive lonely brunette who loves eves in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407021**

KIRSTY blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTM broadminded male for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409259**

KATH blonde independent female, employed with OHAC looking for fun and laughter with likeminded nice easy going male, any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407955**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 408297**

TRACY slim dark haired beauty, petite, hardworking career, enjoys dancing, nights out, WLTM loving male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409419**

SHARON very attractive British black lady, sexy size 6 looking for white male to fall in love with. Beautiful people can be lonely too. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409263**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1952 Box No: 366019**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

ANITA very attractive black female, seeking mature white/Asian man to enjoy uncomplicated relationship with no ties. Any age, pls contact me, I'm very lonely. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408505**

SUSIE, seeks fifty shades of grey with guy any age but must be discreet, call and I will explain why. **Tel: No. 0905 002 1953 Box No: 407321**

ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409151**

HI I'm Pam, cuddly, attractive, self-sufficient, employed, looking for similar young looking, sincere male for hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407933**

FEMALE many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408537**

28YR old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639**

MIXED raced lady, 34, widely travelled, seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429**

68YR old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408413**

JENNY single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408285**

MARIA gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733**

KIM attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489**

TAYLOR attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311**

BETHANY 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408253**



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62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106**

CAROL 36, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401853**

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407603**

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807**

CHRIS blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407615**

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135**

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428**

LYN slim size 10, 5ft 9ins, attractive with GSOH, OHAC, employed, WLTM genuine guy who is also looking to put some fun back into life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407195**

DEBS 37yr old professional, outgoing, bubbly, seeking genuine man for good times in/out and just see where it leads. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407039**

BLONDE blue eyed 72yr old widow, GSOH, young at heart, seeks honest, caring gent of similar age for holidays, weekends away and happy times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407113**

WHERE have all the genuine men gone? Sue single female who enjoys nights in/out, music, seeks sincere male to enjoy good times and get close to. Pls ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407025**

PAULA 38 single mum with OHAC, attractive blue eyes, size 14, seeking well built male with GSOH and honest/reliable disposition, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407029**

MEDIUM build female, 66, widow, 5ft 5ins, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407003**

HI I am Linda a lonely petite mature lady looking for nice caring male up to 65yrs who also has lots of love to give for hopeful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406715**

ANITA petite 33yr old tanned, toned sexy size 10 female with very high drive and lots of energy looking for similar man for adult no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406835**

CARING female, likes Indian rock music, concerts, cinema, seeks North Staffs male, 40-55 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406757**

LINDA bored housewife wanting to spice things up a bit looking for clean well mannered professional for discreet adult meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406705**

SLIM active lady, 60's, N/S, seeks honest, kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407693**

ANNABELLA board attractive 30 something nurse wanting healing hands for no strings fun. No TLC required. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407449**

SUE 40's female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407019**

NICKY loving caring gorgeous fun young lady who loves swimming, dancing and lots more, seeking male for text chats and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407459**

BLACK female, 45, seeking older gent, 60 plus who knows how to look after a lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407787**

PAM 71, feels younger, lots to give, socialising, theatre, country walks, charity work, seeking male to share interests with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407851**

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651**

MANDY divorced independent 46yr old single mum, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407469**

NICKY 26 fun single female who has been on her own far too long desperately seeking her Prince Charming, must be tactile and possess the ability to fall in love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407485**

MICHELLE lonely singleton, fit/slender, passionate, easy-going seeks male to cook for and generally spoil rotten in exchange for great companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407501**

HEATHER larger than life, cuddly built lady, scrubs up pretty well, employed, OHAC, GSOH, looking for good times with willing male, fun times guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407307**

TRACY 35yr old blonde petite single mum, WLTM tall male for nights out, text chats and hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407215**

SINGLE cuddly female, 5ft 6ins, green eyes, seeks male, 40-50 for fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406015**

PAT 67, attractive, likes reading, holidays, seeking female, 65-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405985**

SHELLEY 48, 5ft 5ins, brunette, seeking discreet relationship with male 48-52 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405795**

GOOD looking professional female, 51, enjoys arts, wining/dining, sight seeing, country walks, seeks special male to enjoy great fun with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406765**

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406341**



ELIZABETH 33, curvy attractive blonde, likes walking, socialising, meals out, entertaining, WLTM well educated nice male 50-60's for nice times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403937**

SENSUAL cuddly 32yr old professional looking for similar minded discreet male up to 40yrs for 1-2-1 fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404023**

48YR old attractive female seeking local fun maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947**

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818**

TINA fun loving single mum who enjoys most things in life, seeking happy guy with GSOH for meals in, dates out, possible romance and adult companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403567**

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127**

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852**

CHRISTINA 38 very pretty petite trainee nurse looking for N/S male companionship to enjoy meals/drinks out, leading to more maybe. Age/looks and status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405243**

BLACK female 32yrs, 38dd, very curvy, sensual and looking for discreet fun with no strings or complications, any age, looks or status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405269**

MARIA petite curvy brunette, into keep fit, running, beauty, looking for nice genuine tall N/S guy with no ties for fun adult companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405099**

SHAZ 33 easygoing voluptuous black female with lovely smile and personality to match, loves music, keeping fit and looking good, WLTM appreciative guy **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404819**

WOMAN 55yrs old, N/S, size 14, likes animals, nature, reading, TV, quiet life, seeks man 45-55, N/S for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404447**

WIDOW young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTM younger gentleman with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177**

DEBBIE sexy size 14, fun, outgoing, discreet, looking for fun times only with male over 40yrs, call to find out more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398759**

NICKY lonely 39yr old single mum looking for adult companionship and strictly no strings fun. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399189**

DENISE tall leggy good looking single mum, easygoing, enjoys nights in/out, animals, WLTM tall male for fun times possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391873**

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041**

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949**

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297**

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295**

MANDY 36, size 10 but busty, looking for discreet relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317**

CLAUDIA 37yr old attractive single mum who has been unlucky in love looking for special male to make me feel gorgeous again. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390991**

RETIRED lady, seeks gent for friendship and outings, holidays etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392936**

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979**

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTM male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681**

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

TEXT IN NOW AND CHAT TO LOCAL PEOPLE. SEND: CHAT26 TO : 80098 (T&C'S BELOW)

SAM seeking lovely lady for great times likes sports, good standard of living, looking for some fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409527**

ATTRACTIVE male, 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, loving, genuine, seeks attractive female, single mum welcome, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409471**

PETE 6ft 1ins, likes body building, kick boxing, seeks female for love and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409451**

SINGLE white 40's male, looking for strictly no strings adult fun, any age/race/looks, genuine callers. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409613**

LOCAL businessman, seeking special friend for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409585**

TIM easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

GENT 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks soul mate for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408411**

MATURE land owner, GSOH, youthful outlook, likes countryside, socialising, history, seeks lady who appreciates good food/conversation with view to relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408417**

BROADMINDED 42yr old male, GSOH, caring, loving good personality seeks female for fun friendship, relationship and adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404623**

MATURE male, lonely, no ties, attractive, likes TV, reading, walks, holidays, meals out, seeks attractive, smart female, 65-72 to share simple things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408183**

MAURICE Shropshire farmer, 43, seeks farming lady of any age to share the good things in life with view to LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374021**

YOUNG looking 50's male, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408177**

MALE 58, good looking, placid, seeks honest, loyal, caring female with view to becoming soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400313**

SINGLE male, youthful, serene, seeks similar down to earth non materialistic female to become everlasting soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407711**

CHRIS divorced, 55, smoker, seeks female, 30-45 for lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407715**

GENUINE good looking male, 39, WLTM genuine, pretty female, 24-42 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407753**

SHY 60yr old male, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407847**

GEOFF 60's, tall, seeking nice lady for fun, friendship, relationship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406077**

MASON single parent, seeking female for no strings fun times, 30-45. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409443**

MALE likes nights out, holidays, seeking nice female for friendship, fun and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409363**

GARY 40, tall, dark hair, seeks female, 30-50 for fun and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409207**

GENEROUS male, 6ft, GSOH, likes music, DIY, seeks attractive lady to spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409019**

TONY 55, dark hair, 6ft, confident, outgoing, seeks mature, attractive female, 68 plus, genuine ad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408989**

FUN loving male, 47, lots to give, looking for genuine lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409159**

GENT 55, slightly mad, but not bad, will make you glad you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408973**

TALL intelligent, professional fit guy, 50's, athletic, seeks good natured, intelligent female, 50-57 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408991**

LONELY male, 55, seeks Indian/Jamaican female, 25 plus for sincere relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408957**

ATTRACTIVE male, 55, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189**

MARK 44, 6ft, dark hair, businessman, interesting, seeking sporty female for meals out, day trips, country walks etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408571**

FUN loving male, 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, seeks mature female, 50-65 for meals out and daytime relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408185**

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157**

JOHN 59, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, seeks lady, 46-55, likes meals out and in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403273**



KIND caring gent 41. 5ft 11ins, fit build, WLTM similar lady for friendship, maybe more, likes music, the outdoors and eating out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404055**

JOHN 70's, likes music, nights out, seeks female of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406879**

COLIN 5ft 8ins, dark hair, brown eyes, likes pubs, walks, DVDs, holidays, seeks nice lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406677**

SINGLE gent 71 young at heart, fit and active, OHAC, seeks similar aged lady for companionship, shared interests and possible ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406463**

63YR old gent, N/S, easy going, likes DIY, seeks female, 45-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406605**

ARE you a black princess? 48yr old sporty white male, 5ft 11ins, likes holidays, cinema, meals out, would like to take you out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406551**

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

JEFF 60's, 6ft 2ins, fit, seeking lady, mid 50-60's for friendship/relationship, nights in/out and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407811**

ROMANCE wanted in Nuneaton. 5ft 10ins, medium build male, 41, seeking a relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406683**

BROADMINDED 67yr old male, fit, active, GSOH, caring, loving, seeks N/S female, open minded, 62-69 for genuine LTR. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407785**

MALE 51, seeks lady to spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313191**

IAN 5ft 10ins, 55, caring, honest, looking for sincere female with good personality, 45-55, enjoy being out, socialising, meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382997**

MALE 41, honest, caring, seeks female, 18-55 for friendship, maybe more, must have GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407677**

ALAN retired professional, well travelled, pleasant lifestyle, seeks slim, attractive, N/S lady, 48-60 for LTR and romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407575**

ACTIVE 30yr old slim, dark haired male, enthusiastic, likes keep fit, photography, seeks female, 19-32. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 330009**

MALE 46, enjoys romantic walks, meals out, seeks female biker for rides out and touring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407171**

Men seeking men

GAY guy 58, Shropshire, seeks male 30-80 for friend, companion or long term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407819**

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892**

BI male, divorced, own business, generous, fit, 50, seeks male, any nationality, 18-45 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409009**



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Parrys blazing the trail with luxury coach travel

AWARD-winning coach tour company Parrys International is all set for a bumper year in 2014, after customer power persuaded the Cheslyn Hay firm to continue for the next few years.

After 40 successful years Managing Director Dave Parry had announced his retirement and that the firm would close, but after a huge outcry from both customers, trade and hotel suppliers, he was persuaded to change his mind.

Now it's business as usual with a fantastic programme of coach holidays, short breaks and a full investment of more than £4 million in new, luxury Coaches.

Parrys International already have the reputation of providing the best touring coaches in the UK. This has been taken to a new level with in seat entertainment fitted to every Coach – the first touring fleet in the world to provide such a system.

Facilities

Complimentary headsets will be provided for all long haul tours and together with the other on-board facilities, they will provide the ultimate in luxury coach travel – the same as long haul aircraft.

Parrys operate quality UK Coach tours in association with big hotel names such as Hilton and Marriott.

Continental destinations include regular departures to Italy, Austria, Spain and Germany all with comfortable overnight stops each way and exciting short breaks to Paris, the Dutch bulbfields, Bruges and Ireland.

Coach travel can be so rewarding with all details taken care of by a friendly and professional crew, who can show you the very best of Britain and Europe in comfort and above all – complete safety!

Coach holidays are unique and represent great value for money with interesting itineraries, first class hotels and the ultimate in spacious, air-conditioned coach travel.

Parrys has just released its 2014 holiday brochure packed with new and favourite tours and popular weekends.

Once again the company will be main team sponsors of Wolverhampton speedway for a record 14th Year. This Sunday, January 12, Parrys International opens to the public with their annual open day.

There will be trade exhibitors, coaches on display, special offers and lots of interesting items including the management and a star rider from Wolverhampton speedway. It will be open from 10am to 3pm.

It all takes place at the Cheslyn Hay site, Landywood Green, off Landywood Lane near Landywood Railway Station. Other Coach firms have tried to copy or follow Parrys International but the Company remains one of the most respected coach tour operators in the United Kingdom and will remain so for some years to come.



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MAYRHOFEN – AUSTRIA	9	595.00
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LAKE GARDA - ITALY	11	645.00

UK	Days	From £
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HISTORIC YORK	3	99.50
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Dinner is included again at the Hilton this Evening.

DAY THREE
Our breakfast is taken at leisure and we then depart to the village of 'Downton', where the outdoor views of the Church and Hospital are recorded.

From here we make a Lunch stop at the Oxfordshire Village of Woodstock before continuing to the Heritage Motor Museum at Gaydon.
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- Visit to Winchester
- Visit to Downton Village
- Visit to Woodstock
- Admission to Heritage Motor Museum
- Hotel Leisure Centre

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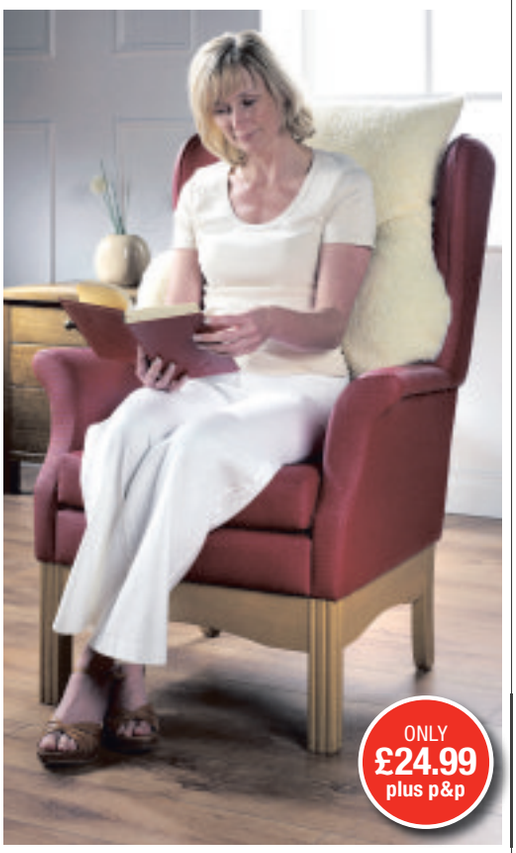
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NEWS

Baby, what a top start



Christy Wilkes with Roman Perry, Martin and Lucy Campbell with Lillian Martha, and Jodie Hassall with Alfie

AS REVELLERS welcomed in the new year with fireworks displays and parties, Black Country parents had an extra reason to celebrate. Delighted mothers and fathers welcomed new members into their families on the first day of 2014, some of them becoming parents for the first time.

Little Gracie Welcome could be the first baby born in 2014 in the whole of the UK, arriving at 10 seconds after midnight and weighing 7lbs 3oz, delighting midwives and nurses at the M2 maternity unit at City Hospital.

Mum Lethea Rankine, 22, and father Romeo, 27, from Hagley Road in Edgbaston, said: "She was due on December 18 so she was probably waiting for that time."

At Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, eight babies had been born by mid-afternoon on New Year's Day. Jodie Hassall, aged 24, of Tipton, gave birth to son Alfie, at 3.30am, who weighed 5lbs 9oz. "I'm really pleased he came on New Years Day, it's great," she said.

Arriving at 2.07am was Roman Perry, much to the delight of his mother Christy Wilkes of Holly Hall, Dudley. Roman weighed in at 8lb 7oz.

Lucy Campbell and husband Martin, of Stourbridge, celebrated the birth of daughter Lillian at 1.02am. She weighed 7lb 3oz and arrived 13 days past her due date.

Bankrupts in closed firm will not face legal action

NO ACTION will be taken against a chain of solicitors and estate agents that closed down when the partners were declared bankrupt after one of the workers was jailed for stealing £165,000, it has been revealed

Stables & Company's premises in Halesowen, Stourbridge and Rowley Regis were closed by legal watchdog The Solicitors Regulation Authority 20 months ago.

The move followed three of the partners being declared bankrupt, leaving thousands of clients in limbo.

Court

The watchdog said there was also 'reason to suspect dishonesty' on the part of a former employee. Head cashier Pauline Sutcliffe later admitted theft at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Partners David Moore, Nigel Jordan and Jessica Bird were all declared bankrupt on April 30 last year and their practising certificates were suspended.

They could have been banned altogether, but the SRA revealed that no further action will be taken.

SRA spokesman Lee Shrimpton said: "One of the reasons for closing down Stables & Co was that we suspected dishonesty by an employee. There followed criminal proceedings against that employee, which have now concluded. We decided it was not in the public interest to pursue formal disciplinary proceedings against the partners of the firm, David John Moore, Jessica Louise Bird and Nigel Jordan."

Clients who believe they were owed money were advised to apply for compensation via the SRA. The court heard Sutcliffe, who was jailed for 14 months, controlled cash payments from clients to Stables and Co and regularly skimmed off small amounts of the money for herself before fiddling the books to cover up the crime.

She admitted stealing from the firm between 2001 and 2010. The scam was only discovered when the 58-year-old from Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, handed herself in.

By David Banner

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For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

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This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)



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- Visit to Torquay
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- Visits to Whitby, Harrogate and Richmond
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Florimania at Hampton Court Palace

Two days departing March 29

PRICE FROM £109

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Hampton Court Palace and Gardens for Florimania
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

London Theatre by coach

Two days selected weekend departure dates



PRICE FROM £139.95

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is King in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe.

The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again. And it's the songs that make people return to the capital a number of times and some of the most well-known tunes have become part of the national canvas.

There are two options travelling by coach from which to choose, Saturday Night Theatre or Dine and Dance.

The Saturday Night Theatre break, from £139.95, includes a ticket for the evening show whereas the Dine and Dance option starts from £149.95, and includes an evening meal with an after-dinner disco. The ticket for this break is for the matinee performance.

Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in a four-star outer-London hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

**The from price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure/web page for details.*

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

Pompeii, Capri and the Bay of Naples

Pick of the week

Eight days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £719

The Sorrento peninsula and Bay of Naples form one of the most beautiful corners of Europe, rich in history, boasting breathtaking scenery and of course, first class cuisine, particularly seafood, pasta and wine.

On this holiday a choice of hotels is offered in and around the town of Sorrento. Tiny cobbled streets, quaint squares, and home to numerous bistros and restaurants along with lofty palm trees and flowers climbing crumbling walls, this is a typical Italian town and a perfect holiday base from where to explore the region.

Excursions include a boat trip to the beautiful island of Capri, home to the famous Blue Grotto; the city of Pompeii, whose state of preservation is astonishing; a visit to the still-active volcano of Vesivius, and a visit to Naples, home to the Archaeological Museum that houses some of the finest finds from the nearby excavations.

The Amalfi coastline offers stunning views and a full day is spent driving the meandering roads, admiring the exclusive resort of Positano, the picturesque village of Amalfi and then Ravello, perched in its breathtaking location boasting delightful small cafes and the Villa Rufolo, a charming collection of medieval buildings.

INFO

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Guided tours of Pompeii and Sorrento
- Visits to Naples and Ravello
- Cruise to Capri
- Visit to the volcano of Vesuvius
- Tour of the Amalfi coast
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Badly behaved Bohemians of Covent Garden

Book reviews by Leon Burakowski

Non-Fiction

IN THIS enjoyable history book Vic Gatrell looks at The First Bohemians (Allen Lane, hardback, £25), a rollicking cast of characters who inhabited the salons, brothels and coffee houses of London's Covent Garden in Georgian times.



Sordid and sublime times

The sordid and sublime rub shoulders in an area that was part cesspit and part cultural capital, where artists, aristocrats, prostitutes and criminals mixed and many a rake tried to make progress. Gatrell explores an extraordinarily fertile period in British art (maybe it was all that muck on the streets) in a well illustrated work.

For a fuller picture of Georgian London, turn to a lovingly detailed blog-turned-book **Georgian London: Into The Streets** by Lucy Inglis **(Viking, hardback, £20)**, which covers the full 116-year period in which the London we know today began to take shape. Georgian London has some parallels with our own age but in other ways is peculiarly alien. The latter is revealed by did-you-know revelations, such as fresh milk from a cow being milked at the door, or that you could get free entry to the Tower of London menagerie by bringing a dead cat or dog to feed the wild animals.

Pirates, puritans, princes and prophets feature in Adrian Tinniswood's account of one family's involvement in the turmoil of the English Civil War and then the colonial beginnings of America in **The Rainborowes (Jonathan Cape, hardback, £25)**, a fascinating truth-is-stranger-than-fiction story.

What did you do in the war Auntie? Worcester-born novelist and biographer Nicholas Shakespeare never got to ask his Aunt Priscilla that question but a chance find led him on a journey of discovery as he uncovers her story of survival in occupied France in **Priscilla: The Hidden Life of an Englishwoman in Wartime France (Harvill Secker, hardback, £18.99)**.

A glamorous, vivacious and morally ambiguous figure is revealed by his research. He had heard rumours that she had fought with the French Resistance during the war but the truth turns out to be far more complicated.

There is more to publisher **Haynes** than car manuals. They bring the same eye for detail to a range of subjects. For space buffs, recent titles featuring cut-away diagrams showing technical detail include manuals dedicated to the near catastrophic Apollo 13 Mission, the Nasa Mars Rover that landed on the Red Planet last year, the Lunar Rover, the Nasa Space Shuttle, and the International Space Station. Hardbacks, prices from £19.99 to £21.99.

Haynes have self-help guides including the **Home DIY Eco-House Manual (hardback, £21.99)** by construction consultant Nigel Griffiths looking at ways to make environmentally friendly improvements to your home. **The Sewing Manual** by Laura Strutt **(hardback, £21.99)** gives practical advice to those inspired by the vintage boom, Cath Kidston and TV's Great British Sewing Bee to put needle and thread to good use.

Haynes also has a silly side with titles such as the gore-splattered **Zombie Survival Manual (hardback, £16.99)**. If your not-so-little horror is eagerly looking forward to the zombie apocalypse, then this tongue-in-rotten-cheek guide will help them work out a survival plan. A lighter style of humour is found in **Wallace & Gromit The Complete Cracking Contraption Manual (paperback, £16.99)**. Combining the contents of the previous two hardback volumes dedicated to the genius of Wallace & Gromit, this book contains details of all Aardman animation's wacky creations from the cheese-loving inventor and his long suffering mutt.

Adult Fiction

In **Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy (Jonathan Cape, hardback, £18.99)** Helen Fielding returns to her iconic hapless heroine a couple of decades since we were last in her company as she battled to keep her beloved Darcy in Edge Of Reason.

The third outing for the character who struck a chord with her accident-prone search for romance in Bridget Jones' Diary is, sadly, a disappointment.

We learn that Bridget is a singleton again, due to widowhood, so the 51-year-old is looking for love but with the added complication of being a busy mum. It's a bit harsh of Fielding to kill off Mark Darcy just to put Bridget back on square one, especially as the trials of married life and middle age would seem a rich source for humour, it has provided material for many a hit sitcom.

Whilst it is funny to see Bridget struggle with social media and other aspects of 21st century life, I am not sure fans will be so keen on Bridget the kooky cougar.

Children's Fiction

Mary Poppins is the world's most famous fictional nanny and her creator P L Travers has been celebrated in recent movie Saving Mr Banks, about how Walt Disney pursued her approval to make a film of her book. A timely reissue offers the chance to enjoy the original, less sentimental book **(Harper Collins Children's Books, hardback, £12.99)**. Celebrating the 80th anniversary of its publication next year, it remains a magical read, weirder than the film.

This is nice edition in pink striped sleeve features Mary Shepard's iconic illustrations.

No mystery to Liverpool's draw

LOOKING to get away for a UK city break? You'd be sure of a warm welcome at a Travelodge.

The chain has spent £57million on a refurbishment programme at more than 130 hotels. The chain is even celebrating its milestone 15,000th refurbished room.

It is all part of a £223m brand investment with locations including Edinburgh, Southwark and Covent Garden, the latter particularly enticing, as well as Manchester and our own first choice of Liverpool.

It is five years since Liverpool was named the European city of culture but it still has a lot going for it, and as home to the Beatles, needs no further introduction.

Cavern

The Fab Four remain the biggest draw in the city and during our visit we ventured on a Magical Mystery Tour, taking in the childhood homes of John, Paul, George and Ringo, as well as Penny Lane and Strawberry Fields.

There are stops for picture opportunities at the landmark locations, while the tour ends up at the Cavern, the Mathew Street club where the Beatles made their name and where their music lives on.

If you're lucky, you might even get, like we did, the brother of Holly Johnson, of Frankie Goes to Hollywood fame, as tour guide.

But it's not just about the Beatles of course. There is the Museum of Liverpool, Maritime and Slavery Museums, the Tate Gallery, Mersey cruises and the amphibious Yellow Duckmarine to transport visitors around the city sites. Lime Street Station is nearby and shopping is an experience at Liverpool One, and there's a host of eateries.

The hotel itself is the perfect complement with comfortable beds to crash down onto after a busy day of shopping or sightseeing, though parking can be tricky. There are no spaces outside the hotel, situated in the heart of the city in The Strand, despite waste land going spare to the side of the building.

Once inside, though, the views from our room were spectacular. Albert Dock is located just opposite and the Liverpool Eye was brightly lit up.

Following a survey carried out by Travelodge, customers requested above all else, a good night's sleep, so particular attention has been paid to giving guests what they want in the form of a Travelodge Dreamer, featuring a pocket sprung mattress and described as the 'Rolls Royce' of beds.

A double room is just £32 per night, with family rooms also available. And, on waking the next morning, what better way to start the day with an all you can eat breakfast for just £7.50. To book, call 0871 984 6156.

Mark Shipp



Travelodge rooms have undergone a transformation and feature cosy comfortable beds

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What's On! Halesowen

Red Lion will host Daredevils band

THE Red Lion Folk Club in Birmingham will be hosting Black Country musicians The Bushbury Mountain Daredevils along with Stourbridge blues singer Sunjay Brayne on January 15. Brayne has just come from a tour supporting Steeleye Span and recently released an album of him playing live

The club in Vicarage Road, Kings Heath meets on Wednesdays at 7.15pm. Northern singer and raconteur Jez Lowe will also be appearing there on January 22.

For more information visit www.redlionfolkclub.co.uk.

New venture for young musicians

A NEW venture is coming to the Newhampton Arts Centre in Wolverhampton.

Fiddle player Faye Brookes is staging the Folk Lounge at the Dunkley Street venue in Whitmore Reans, which is a platform to give young musicians exposure.

The event is on January 25 from 7.30pm and tickets are £5. For more information contact 01902 572090.

Lowings back for home ground gig

STOURBRIDGE group Kim Lowings and the Greenwood will be at The Woodman Folk Club at the Ashwood Marina, Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford on January 24. The group is a collective of local musicians fronted by singer Lowings. Visit www.woodmanfolk.co.uk.

Magical snowman returns to enthrall new generations



The show will be filled with all manner of familiar and wonderfully colourful characters

THE magic of Raymond Briggs' frosty friend The Snowman has been enthralling young and old alike for more than three decades and now The Birmingham Repertory Theatre is bringing him to life once again.

The stage show, based upon the book by Briggs, will run at the venue until Saturday January 18.

The Snowman tells the magical story of a young boy's adventures when his snowman miraculously comes to life on Christmas Eve.

A glittering host of international snowmen and snow women will be joined onstage by colourful characters including dancing penguins, magical reindeer, a beautiful snow princess and her abominable beau Jack Frost and Father Christmas himself.

The Snowman first appeared as a beautifully illustrated picture book by Raymond Briggs in 1978.

Performance Times: 11am, 3pm and 7pm on Saturday 11 and 18; 2pm and 7pm on Friday 10, Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15, Thursday 16 and Friday 17; 3pm Friday 17.

There will also be backstage tours on Saturdays 11 and 18 at 11am. They cost £5 (£3 concessions). Audio described performance and Touch Tours run on Sunday 12 3pm. Touch Tour starts at 1.30pm.



The magic of The Snowman

The shows are suitable for children aged four and upwards.

Tickets are£12.50 – £35 and for more information contact the box office on 0121 236 4455.

Online booking: birmingham-rep.co.uk.

Music from both sides of Atlantic

THE famous Transatlantic Sessions featuring some of the biggest names from the world of folk and acoustic music is coming to Birmingham next month.

Musicians Aly Bain and Jerry Douglas have put together another collection of world renowned musicians from both sides of the pond including Kris Drever, Shawn Colvin and Mike McGoldrick among many others.

The show at Symphony Hall is on Thursday February 6 from 7.30pm. Tickets are £27.50 plus booking fee and for more information visit www.thsh.co.uk.

Folk founders in concert as a duo

FOUNDER members of award-winning group Bellowhead, Spiers & Boden, will be playing as a duo at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall on March 18.

Double BBC Folk award winners for best duo Jon Boden and John Spiers will be coming to the venue on the back of Bellowhead's 10th anniversary bash.

Tickets are £16.50 including booking fee and for more information visit www. wolvescivic.co.uk.

Singer Sermanni set for Glee date

SCOTTISH singer/songwriter Rachel Sermanni is coming to the Glee Club, Birmingham on February 7. Tickets are £7 plus booking fee and doors open at 8.30pm. For more information visit www.glee.co.uk/birmingham.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 11.01.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Shane Richie

Reflex
BBC1, 6.15pm
In EastEnders this week, Alfie begins planning a trip to Australia. Is it because he's already fed up of being reunited with Kat – or did Shane Richie need a break so he could host this promising new game show? Yes, the actor is getting back to his light entertainment roots with Reflex, which as the name suggests, is all about reaction times. Each week, two teams of three family members will be tested in a series of challenges designed to find out who has the speediest reflexes. And that could involve anything from being fired into the air to responding to explosions.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Good Cook. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Live Athletics: Great Edinburgh Cross-Country. **2.45** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** Dynamo: Magician Impossible.

6.15 Reflex. New series. Shane Richie hosts this game show in which two families battle each other in a series of physical and mental challenges. The first contestants are from London and Essex.

7.00 The Voice UK. New series. Kylie Minogue and Ricky Wilson join Tom Jones and Will.i.am as coaches in the return of the chair-spinning singing contest.

8.30 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers compete by listing as much as they know about given subjects.

9.20 Casualty. Lily and new doctor Ethan try to diagnose what is wrong with a teacher showing strange symptoms, while Zoe and Tess fight to save the life of Dixie's girlfriend.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Hull City v Chelsea; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.10 Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.30 Film:** The Informer. (1935) **7.55 Film:** I Married a Witch. (1942) **9.10** Life on Earth. (R) **10.05** Life on Earth. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain. (R) **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** The A to Z of TV Cooking. **12.45** The A to Z of TV Gardening. **12.50 Film:** Summer Magic. (1963) **2.35 Film:** The Go-Between. (1971) **4.30** Live Darts: BDO World Championships.

6.00 Flog It! Contestants in Swansea hope a Moorcroft vase will beat their Hartlepool rivals' Clarice Cliff pottery at auction. (R)

7.00 Nature's Weirdest Events. Chris Packham investigates reports of fish "walking" out of the water in Florida, bees in France that are making multicoloured honey, and trees oozing a blood-red liquid. (R)

8.00 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring enlists an unusual recruit. (R)

8.30 Morecambe & Wise: The Curtains. Penelope Keith presents a look through the archives at the parts of the comedy duo's shows in which they chatted to each other – and their guests – in front of the stage curtains. (R)

9.30 QI XL. Extended edition. With Sue Perkins, Reginald D Hunter and Jimmy Carr.

10.15 Film: Burke and Hare. (2010) Premiere. Comedy horror, starring Simon Pegg.

11.40 Darts: BDO World Championships. Action from the eighth day at the Lakeside Country Club.

12.30 Film: They Shoot Horses, Don't They? (1969) **2.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Caninals. (R) **6.55** Caninals. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.05** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Victorious. **9.00** Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** Countrywise. (R) **11.45** ITV News; Weather. **11.55 Film:** Rest in Peace, Mrs Columbo. (1990) **1.55** The Chase. (R) **2.55** Boyzone at 20: No Matter What. (R) **3.55** Show Me the Telly. (R) **4.55** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.05** ITV News; Weather. **5.20 Film:** Ice Age: The Meltdown. (2006)

7.00 Splash! Another line-up of celebrities compete for two places in the semi-final of the diving contest, under the tutelage of Tom Daley. Hosted by Vernon Kay and Gabby Logan.

8.30 Take Me Out. A psychic single dad, a bodybuilder, a train enthusiast and a children's party planner try to win a date with one of 30 single women.

9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host invites Hollywood actor Aaron Eckhart, ice-dance duo Torvill and Dean, funnyman Griff Rhys Jones and businesswoman Karren Brady for a chat. Kodaline provide the music.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.00 Film: Miami Vice. (2006) Crime thriller based on the 1980s TV series, starring Colin Farrell and Jamie Foxx.

1.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 American Football Playoff Highlights. (R) **7.00** Trans World Sport. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **10.00** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Taste. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.05** Channel 4 News. **4.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.10 Come Dine with Me. Engineer Brian Hodges hosts the penultimate dinner party in Nottingham and decides to rope in his local butcher to help out in the kitchen. (R)

6.45 Come Dine with Me. Barry Dickman hosts the final dinner party in Nottingham. (R)

7.15 Film: Crocodile Dundee. (1986) An Australian hunter with a larger-than-life reputation accompanies a reporter from the Outback to the urban jungle of Manhattan. Comedy, starring Paul Hogan and Linda Kozlowski.

9.00 Hostages. New series. A surgeon faces a moral dilemma when masked men take her family hostage and order her to kill her next patient – the US president. Thriller, starring Toni Collette.

10.00 Film: Wanted. (2008) Action adventure, starring James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie and Morgan Freeman.

12.00 Film: House of Flying Daggers. (2004) **2.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.20** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R) **5.55** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.35** Slugterra. **11.00** Access. **11.05** Celebrity Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) **12.30** World's Busiest Hotel. (R) **1.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.30 Film:** Columbo: How to Dial a Murder. (1978) **4.05** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **5.05** Diagnosis Murder. (R)

6.05 Mr & Mrs Murder. Charlie and Nicola are called to clean up a crime scene at a golf club after a dispute between dog walkers and players results in murder.

7.00 CSI: NY. A teenager is shot in front of his younger brother. (R)

7.45 NCIS. A missing Navy lieutenant's car is found covered in blood. (R)

8.40 NCIS. A Russian man becomes the prime suspect when a petty officer is found dead, but receives protection from the Department of Homeland Security. Drama, starring Mark Harmon. (R)

9.40 5 News Weekend.

9.45 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the famous housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another.

10.45 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Psychological analysis of the housemates' behaviour.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.05** True CSI. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.30** Top Gear **8.30 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (2011) **10.40** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 Nasa – Triumph and Tragedy **8.00** A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **9.00** The Bridge **11.00** Tubular Bells: The Mike Oldfield Story

ITV2
2.30 Film: Curly Sue (1991) **4.30** You've Been Framed! **6.30 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **8.30 Film:** Tomorrow Never Dies (1997) **10.50** The Magaluf Weekender **11.55 Film:** The Interpreter (2004)

ITV3
9.05am Agatha Christie's Poirot. Back-to-back episodes. **11.00** Prime Suspect. A country club manager is found dead.

ITV4
3.45 Film: A Reason to Live, A Reason to Die (1972) **5.35 Film:** The Battle of Midway (1976) **8.10 Film:** Police Academy 7: Mission to Moscow (1994) **10.00 Film:** Firefox (1982)

E4
4.00 2 Broke Girls **5.00** Rules of Engagement **6.00** How I Met Your Mother **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00 Film:** What Happens in Vegas (2008) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory **11.30** Rude Tube: Epic Skills

Film4
3.10 King Solomon's Mines (1985) **5.05** Night at the Museum (2006) **7.15** Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Ioan Gruffudd. **9.00** Dogma (1999) Comedy fantasy, with Matt Damon, Ben Affleck and Linda Fiorentino. **11.25** Evil Dead II (1987)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 12.01.14

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CHOICE



Simon Reeve

The Tea Trail with Simon Reeve
BBC2, 8pm
Adventurer Simon Reeve is getting out and about again. He's not long back from his jaunt to the other side of the world after his exploration of Australia, but you can't keep this man on terra firma for too long, so this time he's jetting off to Africa where he's looking into the stories behind our favourite beverage – tea. He's in the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa, where most of the leaves for tea bags are bought at auction, before moving on through eastern Africa to meet some of the millions of people who pick, pack and transport it.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Moving On. (R) **2.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.45** Real Lives Reunited. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Dolphins – Spy in the Pod. (R) **5.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 Countryfile. John Craven and Helen Skelton head to Surrey, where he explores the countryside favoured by Arthur Conan Doyle and she talks to an artist with an all-consuming passion for horses.

7.00 Celebrity Mastermind. With Tony Livesey, Ava Vidal, Monty Halls and the Rev Richard Coles. Last in the series.

7.30 Antiques Roadshow. From the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts in Norwich.

8.30 Sherlock. The consulting detective takes on master blackmailer Charles Augustus Magnussen, a man who knows the secrets of every person of importance in the Western world. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Newcastle United v Manchester City.

11.25 The Revolution Will Be Televised. Satirical comedy sketches. James and Barnaby visit Brussels.

11.55 Film: Cemetery Junction. (2010) Comedy drama, starring Christian Cooke.

1.25 Weatherview. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.40 Film:** A Woman's Secret. (1949) Mystery, starring Maureen O'Hara. **8.05** Monty Don's French Gardens. (R) **9.05** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.15** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **1.00** Live Snooker: The Masters. Mark Selby v Mark Davis. **5.00** Ski Sunday. **5.45** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Coverage of the men's final.

8.00 The Tea Trail with Simon Reeve. The adventurer examines the tea industry in eastern Africa, meeting some of the millions of people involved in picking, packing and transporting it to the UK.

9.00 Operation Grand Canyon with Dan Snow. The historian and his team conclude their recreation of the pioneering 280-mile expedition through the natural wonder that was led by explorer John Wesley Powell in 1869.

10.00 Film: Let Me In. (2010) Premiere. A bullied boy befriends a mysterious girl, unaware she is a vampire who is behind a recent series of killings. Horror remake, with Chloe Grace Moretz and Kodi Smit-McPhee.

11.50 Snooker: The Masters. Stuart Bingham v John Higgins. Hazel Irvine presents action from the second match in round one of the non-ranking tournament at Alexandra Palace in London.

12.40 Snooker Extra. Mark Selby v Mark Davis. **2.40** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.35** Holby City. Jac goes into early labour. (R) **4.35** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.05** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Victorious. **9.00** Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.30** ITV News; Weather. **11.35** Inside the National Trust. **12.35** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **1.35** Catchphrase. (R) **2.20** Splash! (R) **3.50** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **4.50** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) **5.50** Regional Programme; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Dancing on Ice. The second seven celebrities take to the ice.

7.45 All Star Family Fortunes. With Paul Potts and Ann Widdecombe.

8.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. Two more couples leave the competition.

9.00 It'll Be Alright on the Night's Best of the Worst. Compilation of clangers from the programme's history.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 Birds of a Feather. Dorien discovers she has no money. Sitcom, with Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson. (R)

10.45 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Mary Berry. The Great British Bake Off judge looks back on her life and career. (R)

11.45 River Monsters. (R)

12.10 The Store. **2.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Will & Grace. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **1.00** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30 Film:** 27 Dresses. (2008) **5.40** Deal or No Deal.

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty present dishes for the weekend from their cafe on Southend Pier, joined by guests including athlete Usain Bolt, who prepares jerk pork. (R)

8.00 Speed with Guy Martin. The racing fan embarks on a mission to fly using muscle power alone, teaming up with engineers from Southampton University to build the fastest man-powered aircraft in the world.

9.00 Film: Fast Five. (2011) Premiere. A fugitive assembles a team of criminals for a heist in Rio, but the FBI's top manhunter is on their trail. Adventure, starring Vin Diesel.

11.35 Film: End of Days. (1999) A former police officer protects an innocent woman from the Devil, who plans to bring about Armageddon. Supernatural thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

1.40 Southland. (R) **2.25** Coming Up: Sink or Swim. (R) **2.50** How Not to Get Old. (R) **3.45** Secret Eaters. (R) **4.40** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **5.35** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Mio Mao. (R) **7.30** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **10.10** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.45** Slugterra. (R) **11.05** Access. **11.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **12.10** World's Worst Holiday Horrors. (R) **1.15 Film:** Holes. (2003) **3.30 Film:** Space Jam. (1996) **5.10** 5 News Weekend. **5.15 Film:** Loch Ness. (1996) Family drama, starring Ted Danson.

7.05 Film: My Super Ex-Girlfriend. (2006) Fantasy comedy, starring Uma Thurman and Luke Wilson.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of BB life.

10.00 Film: The Switch. (2010) Comedy, starring Jennifer Aniston and Jason Bateman.

11.55 Hens Behaving Badly. A bride-to-be parties in Newcastle before emigrating to Australia. (R)

12.55 SuperCasino. **3.05** My Depression Diaries: Kerry Katona. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Voice UK **8.35 Film:** 102 Dalmatians (2000) **10.05** Family Guy **10.50** American Dad! **11.35** Bad Education

BBC Four
7.00 The Golden Age of Steam Railways **9.00** Len Goodman's Dance Band Days **10.00** Timeshift: How to Be Sherlock Holmes – The Many Faces of a Master Detective **11.00 Film:** White Elephant (2012)

ITV2
3.30 Film: Step Up (2006) **5.45 Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **8.00** You've Been Framed! Top 100 Holidays **9.00** The Magaluf Weekender **10.00 Film:** The Butterfly Effect (2004)

ITV3
9.00 Being Poirot **10.00 Film:** In the Name of the Father (1993)

ITV4
1.10 Film: The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp (1943) **4.35 Film:** Horizons West (1952) **6.15 Film:** The Cimarron Kid (1952) **8.00** Dirty Britain **9.00 Film:** Absolute Power (1997) **11.30 Film:** The Enforcer (1976)

E4
4.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **5.00** The Tomorrow People **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00 Film:** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **9.40** Rude Tube **10.50** The Big Bang Theory **11.20** How I Met Your Mother

Film4
3.25 Honey, I Blew Up the Kid (1992) **5.10** The Truman Show (1998) **7.15** Post Grad (2009) **9.00** Coming to America (1988) An African prince journeys to the USA to escape an arranged marriage and search for a worthy wife. Comedy, starring Eddie Murphy and Arsenio Hall. **11.15** Sixteen Candles (1985)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY
300, ITV, 10.35pm
Leonidas, fearless king of Sparta, leads 300 of his finest warriors into battle against the vast invading armies of the ruler of the Persian empire. As the outnumbered Spartans fight for their country, his queen, Gorgo, tries to rally support for her husband at home. Fantasy action adventure based on Frank Miller and Lynn Varley's comic-book series, starring Gerard Butler, Lena Headey, Dominic West, David Wenham and Rodrigo Santoro. (2006)

TUESDAY
Disturbia, BBC1, 11.35pm
A troubled teenager is sentenced to three months under house arrest for attacking a teacher, and passes the time by spying on his neighbours. However, one day he notices something suspicious and becomes convinced one of them is a serial killer. Thriller, starring Shia LaBeouf, Carrie-Anne Moss, David Morse and Sarah Roemer. (2007)



Tropic Thunder, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY
Tropic Thunder, BBC1, 11.05pm
A director's epic Vietnam picture is behind schedule and over budget. Taking the advice of the grizzled war veteran on whose life the film is based, he drops the actors into a jungle with the intention of filming them fighting guerrilla-style – but the cast is unaware the surrounding warfare is genuine. Comedy, directed by and starring Ben Stiller, with Jack Black, Steve Coogan and, in an Oscar-nominated role, Robert Downey Jr. (2008)

THURSDAY
Avenging Angel, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A preacher dusts off his gun after outlaws murder his wife and child, destroy his church and wreak havoc in the town. Turning his back on the cloth, he heads for the desert to begin a new life as a bounty hunter, only to return to the community several years later. Finding the villains are still there and causing trouble, he decides to make them pay. Western, with Kevin Sorbo, Wings Hauser, Nick Chinlund, Cynthia Watros, Fred Cross, Jim Haynie, Richard Lee Jackson and Joey King. (2007)

FRIDAY
Saw II, Channel 4, 11.35pm
The sinister criminal Jigsaw is preparing to mete out his deranged and sadistic form of justice on more hapless victims. Meanwhile, a cop is desperately searching for the madman and the gruesome prison where he is holding eight terrified strangers. Horror sequel, starring Donnie Wahlberg, Shawnee Smith, Tobin Bell, Franky G, Glenn Plummer, Dina Meyer, Emmanuelle Vaugier and Beverley Mitchell. (2005)

Pick of the Week

Latest case is far from elementary for Holmes

Take a deep breath Sherlock fans and prepare for the end. Yes, it's the final episode of the current run, and considering the reaction to the last series' finale, it's anyone's guess how millions of fans will cope.

There's a good bet Sherlock Holmes (Benedict Cumberbatch) won't be killed off – again, but how safe is John Watson (Martin Freeman)?

Has the sleuth finally met his match as he clashes with Charles Augustus Magnussen (Lars Mikkelsen), aka the Napoleon of blackmail?

He's a man who knows the personal weakness of every person of importance in the Western world, and Holmes loathes him for his most unscrupulous line of criminal business.

As ever, Steven Moffat has penned what promises to be a cracking instalment, and while we have no clue as to whether a fourth series will see the light of day, we can but hope Moffat and co-creator Mark Gatiss work their magic with the many other Holmes tales which have yet to be given a 21st-century spin.

Martin Freeman had a great time making the new series, especially during the first read through.

"It was good – it had a kind of familiarity about it, we had new people joining which was lovely," he explains. "Given that it was our third time, or fourth including the pilot, it just feels nice and familiar. It's always exciting because the scripts are so good."

Two years after he witnessed his best friend's death, it was inevitable John Watson would take time to heal before he could move on.

"His best friend had died horribly in front of him, which took a long time to get over, but the way that his life has moved on is that he has fallen in love with Mary," explains Freeman.

(Mary is played by Martin's real-life partner Amanda Abbington in case you missed their charming appearance together on The One Show before Christmas).

"He is leading a functional, normal-ish life really which doesn't have the highs and lows of his life with Sherlock but is certainly a bit more steady. But there is a sadness with John which will always be with him when you lose someone that you love – he is slightly dulled by life."

The last series was topped and tailed by a couple of standout episodes. Some fans think A Scandal in Belgravia was the best episode to date, while others think The Reichenbach Falls takes some beating.

But what is Freeman's favourite episode?

"I have to say the ones that we have just filmed have been brilliant," he enthuses. "Before that, probably Reichenbach was my favourite one to do because when we read it I was really, really excited and I thought the finished product was amazing. It was one of the best things that I've ever done and am likely to do for a while."

With good support from Gatiss, Una Stubbs, Louise Brealey, and Rupert Graves, this should either leave you amazed, and possibly a bit miffed if it's another cliffhanger.



Benedict Cumberbatch stars in Sherlock, Sunday, BBC1, 8.30pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Go Hard or Go Home
Channel 5, 8pm
It's a brand new year, and all that turkey is still sitting heavy (according to the weighing scales at least), so it's little wonder our attention is turning towards getting fit again. And if you needed any more motivation, look no further than this four-part series. It sees ordinary members of the public taking part in some of the world's most extreme endurances races, with only 12 weeks to train. This is the brainchild of Hannah White, who's sailed the Atlantic three times solo and is a competitive long-distance cyclist, mountain biker and runner. In this first episode, she's training up four doctors before they face The Bonebreaker, a 127-mile bike race that runs through the high peaks of the Pyrenees, crossing the Franco-Spanish border twice.

Dave: Loan Ranger
Channel 4, 10pm
Dave Fishwick has already shown that he's got clout when it comes to matters of money, after successfully fighting the regulators to open his own small 'depository' in the Bank of Dave series. But he's still not satisfied because since opening his bank, he's seen first-hand how the poorest in society can become saddled with unthinkable amounts of debt after borrowing money from a new breed of moneylenders – payday loan companies. So Dave's on a new mission to help these people out, and tests out a selection of high-risk loans for people who have got into payday loan problems, offering them a preferable rate of interest in an attempt to get them back on track.

TUESDAY
The Taste
Channel 4, 9pm
Just when you thought every possible culinary show format had been exhausted, along comes another one to shake the genre up a little bit. Last week, viewers saw TV cook Nigella Lawson, food maverick Anthony Bourdain and chef Ludo Lefebvre hand-pick the contestants they felt had the potential to win a battle of the taste buds – their challenge each week is to create the most flavoursome recipe they can, with help from their famous mentors. This week, Richard Corrigan also joins in the fun by setting the first task – a prawn cocktail.

Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans
ITV, 9pm
Paul O'Grady's not afraid to admit he's a big old softie. So it's only fitting that he'd be asked to present this three-part series in which he meets animals that have been orphaned in the wild in South Africa and Zambia. Our host learns that many of these animals – lions, cheetahs, hippos, elephants, baboons, and rhinos, among others – are in fact orphaned because of humans; either because their parents have been poached and killed, or their natural habitat has been destroyed. First, Paul visits SANCCOB, a sanctuary which looks after seabirds.



Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Neil Morrissey, Friday, ITV, 9pm

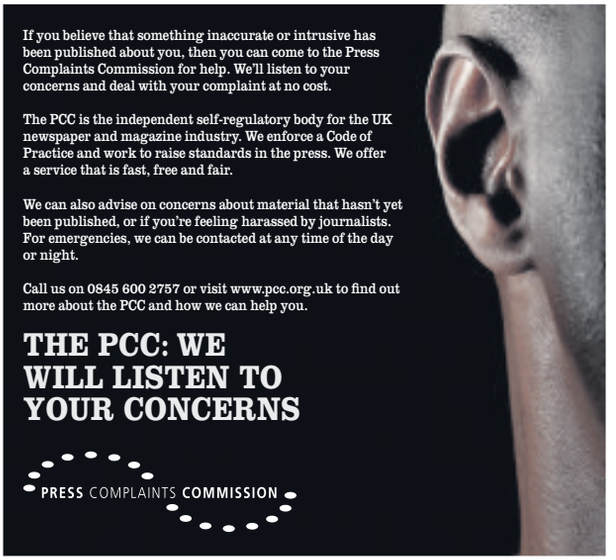
WEDNESDAY
The Restoration Man
Channel 4, 8pm
One thing's for certain; George Clarke could never complain of being bored in his job. The architect gets to meet people from all walks of life for this telly gem – which would be interesting enough – and takes a nosey into their renovation plans, often rolling back his sleeves and getting in on the action himself. This week, he meets fellow architect Neil Worrell and his partner Jackie Robinson, who are making a rather big commitment. Never having lived together before, they're now going to cement their relationship by purchasing an unused church in the picturesque fishing town of Brixham in Devon.

Finding Mum and Dad
Channel 4, 10pm
When many people think about adoption, they probably imagine taking home a new baby, who will never have known any other parents. But the reality is that many of the children in most need of a family are older, and that can bring with it a new set of challenges. In this fascinating documentary, we're introduced to Connor and Daniel, who as sibling boys aged six and four are already classed as 'hard to place.' In the past, that may have suggested they were destined to spend their lives in the system, but the authorities are exploring new ways to find children the stable homes they need. Filmed over the course of 12 months, this programme goes behind the scenes of an innovative new scheme designed to find potential mums and dads.

THURSDAY
Hidden Kingdoms
BBC1, 8pm
With the new year comes a wonderful new documentary from the BBC. The list of natural history programmes over the past few years is staggering, especially considering the quality of them. Three-part series Hidden Kingdoms is the latest and reveals the survival techniques employed by some of the animal kingdom's smallest creatures. This week, we observe the grasshopper mouse of North America's Sonoran desert. Despite its stature, it is capable of disarming scorpions twice its size, and its power and athleticism allow it to avoid rattlesnakes and tarantulas.

FRIDAY
Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Neil Morrissey
ITV, 9pm
The actor most associated with his comic role as Tony in Men Behaving Badly talks openly for the first time about his infamous affair with Amanda Holden. He reflects on being taken into care when he was just 10 years old and reveals how Mel Gibson was happy for him to pretend to be his brother when they became drinking pals.





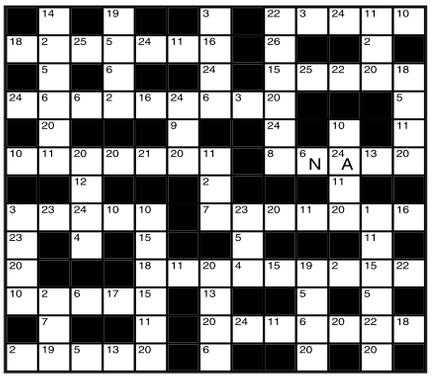


Puzzler

Brain Gym No.255

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
N	
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
	A
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
K	L	D	R	B	A	C	P	E	G	V	H	W
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
F	S	Z	J	U	Y	X	M	N	O	Q	I	T

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

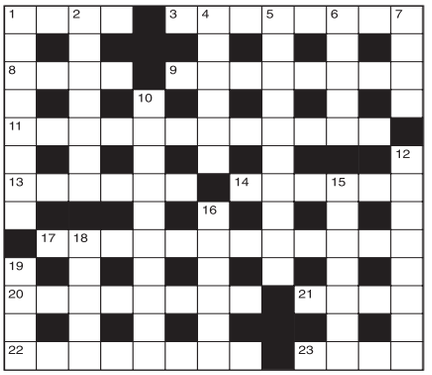
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Loud part of the play - and that's the truth (4)
3. Aromatic plant to sell in real variety (8)
8. Strains the affected person will give himself (4)
9. See 17 Across
11. Another stock market speculation - to control the rate of clothing? (12)
13. Three will show approval (6)
14. Provide with physical cover (6)
17 & 9 Ac. What the doctor with no respect for his patient may be doing (8,4,8)
20. Newspapers, maybe, for travelling attendants (8)
21. Box for a piece of the rigging (4)
22. Not allowing the current deposit to mount up (8)
23. Describing part of the Kalahari Desert (4)

Down

1. Those competing in it would wear running kit - jumpers would be out of place (4-4)
2. Red transport belonging to me (7)
4. Stir up a stratagem about nothing (6)
5. This study could provide a gloomy tone (10)
6. Crude monster is a fiend at heart (5)
7. Assess the charge (4)
10. Superficially covering too much betting? (10)
12. Edward takes in anaesthetic, strictly controlled in movement (8)
15. One who falls for the tourist (7)
16. The answer's a lemon! (6)
18. The way to defeat the East (5)
19. The man who is unable to get to the service would be (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Small inlet of the sea (4)
3. Bias (8)
8. Eminence (4)
9. Flag (8)
11. Self-contradictory (12)
13. Awning (6)
14. Lethargy (6)
17. Impolite (12)
20. Begin (8)
21. Dam (4)
22. Lengthened (8)
23. Brink (4)

Down

1. Persuade (8)
2. Papal government (7)
4. Involve (6)
5. Make up (10)
6. Once more (5)
7. Orderly (4)
10. Examination (10)
12. Pickle (8)
15. Advance (7)
16. Elusive (6)
18. Ass (5)
19. Prevalent (4)

Sudoku

9	6					7		5
			6	1				3
3		4			5			
		3			2	5	9	7
	7			9				
5	4	9	7			3		
			9			2		6
		6		3	8			
2			4				7	9

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	6	9	7	5	8	4	1	2
4	2	1	6	3	9	7	5	8
8	5	7	1	4	2	9	3	6
7	4	5	3	8	1	2	6	9
9	1	8	2	6	7	3	4	5
6	3	2	4	9	5	1	8	7
1	7	6	5	2	3	8	9	4
5	8	3	9	7	4	6	2	1
2	9	4	8	1	6	5	7	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Shipwrights; 9 Netball; 10 Farce; 11 Onset; 12 Siskins; 13 Mobbed; 15 Albino; 18 Trouble; 20 Oiler; 22 Okapi; 23 Stood up; 24 Penetrating. Down: 2 Hates; 3 Piastre; 4 Relish; 5 Gifts; 6 Termini; 7 Information; 8 Seismograph; 14 Brocade; 16 Look-out; 17 Teaser; 19 Bride; 21 Laden. QUICK - Across: 1 Thoughtless; 9 Dungeon; 10 Merge; 11 Lodge; 12 Settled; 13 Stress; 15 Reason; 18 Enclose; 20 Enter; 22 Crime; 23 Unusual; 24 Investments. Down: 2 Honed; 3 Useless; 4 Honest; 5 Limit; 6 Strolls; 7 Adolescence; 8 Leading role; 14 Ruction; 16 Execute; 17 Result; 19 Obese; 21 Trust.



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Victoria Falls

Botswana Safari and Cape Town



Beginning in Zambia, staying close to the spectacular Victoria Falls, the largest single body of falling water in the world, a sunset cruise along the mighty Zambezi on the African Queen will be the first spectacular experience. As the boat glides across this expanse of a river inhabited by hippo and crocodiles, simply relax in a wicker armchair and absorb the unique surroundings.

At Victoria Falls, a guided walking tour is included with other options to view the spectacular falls from either a cruise, a helicopter flight or from a micro-light aircraft.

On the Botswana Safari travel in a specially adapted 10-seater open-sided safari vehicle and see a wide variety of game including monkeys, warthogs and even leopards plus the chance to see cats, giraffe and elephants – it's an experience not to be forgotten so remember to pack a camera!

A second cruise, this time along the Chobe River, almost guarantees sightings of elephant and hippo, then a visit to Cape Point passes the fishing harbour of Hout Bay. Continuing on, see the breathtakingly scenic Chapman's Peak Drive, full of rugged seascapes and cliffs to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

At Cape Point itself see the confluence of the Indian and Atlantic Ocean then it's on to Boulders Beach to see the resident penguin colony.

On the Winelands tour, a visit to the small town of Franschoek is included home to South Africa's most prestigious university and where period buildings and historic streets reinforce the town's dignified atmosphere. A cellar tour and tasting at the award-winning Boschendal Wine Estate is included.

The touring holiday ends in Cape Town. Take time to explore the excellent shopping and dining available, take the cable car to the summit of Table Mountain and, weather permitting, visit Robben Island where Nelson Mandela spent most of his 27 years incarceration.

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

11 days FROM £2,369*
Various departure dates

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return scheduled flights
- Eight nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Three evening meals and two lunches
- Experience Victoria Falls
- Explore Botswana's vast Chobe National Park
- Sunset cruise on the African Queen
- Tour to the Cape of Good Hope
- Tour to the Western Cape's Winelands
- Other optional excursions are available to book
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

* varies according to departure date – please go to website for the latest availability and prices

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

star extra TRAVEL

VIETNAM and Cambodia



The beautiful country of Vietnam is a mosaic of mist-shrouded mountains, vibrant green forests, a patch-work of rice paddies and pristine white beaches, whilst its villages and cities are custodians of the culture and monuments of a unique 2,000 year old civilisation.

In the past few years Vietnam has opened its doors to the world and much has changed. Today, in one of the world's last communist countries, the motorcycles and western dress of the youth happily co-exist with orange-clad Buddist monks and political posters from a different era.

On this 16-day tour you will visit Hue, one of the country's most beautiful small towns and the former imperial capital. Here you will be able to see the amazing Citadel and its imperial Forbidden City, as well as the magnificent seven-storied Thien Mu pagoda, a working Buddhist shrine.

Contorted by years of erosion, explore the staggeringly beautiful rock formations of Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site from on board a converted Chinese junk. Then in Saigon you will be taken on a visit to the Cu Chi tunnels, a complex underground network which provided a base for the Vietcong from which to attack US forces. You will see the tunnels themselves and examples of the many mantraps and stake pits which protected them.

The overwhelming image of Vietnam is that of a country blessed with extraordinary beauty and the friendly Vietnamese always courteous and proud to show of their wonderful country.

In Cambodia you can experience the haunting soft morning light rise over the eerie temples of Angkor. Then later discover the huge fortified 13th century city of Angkor Thom, with its five monumental gates, and 300ft wide moat – its centre containing one of Angkor's most remarkable sites, the temple of Bayon.

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

16 days FROM £1,959*
Various departure dates

Price includes:

- Return scheduled flights
- Thirteen nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Five lunches
- Visits to the major sights of Vietnam and Cambodia
- Guided tours of Hanoi, Hue and Saigon
- Cruise aboard a converted Chinese junk visiting caves and grottoes at Halong Bay.
- Visit the Cu Chi tunnels in Saigon
- Full-day cruise along the mighty Mekong River delta
- Visit the ancient city and temples of Angkor, Cambodia
- Guided tour of Phnom Penh
- Single rooms subject to availbility – supplement applies

** varies according to departure dates please go to website for the latest availability and prices*

For a brochure call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Property

An extended home with three double bedrooms



AN EXCEPTIONALLY stylish, extended and enlarged three bedroomed semi detached house in Coppice Close, Brownswall Estate, Sedgley, Dudley is for sale through Taylors at £184,950.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has an entrance porch, reception hall, through living/dining room (formerly separate rooms) with patio doors and bay window, an extended and refitted kitchen with a fine range of oak finish units and a slate tiled floor, a lobby, laundry section, and sitting/TV/family room.

To the first floor are three double bedrooms plus a large reappointed bathroom with contemporary style white suite with chrome detailing. There is also a gravelled fore-garden and wide rear garden.

For further information contact Taylors on 01902 596025 or visit the dedicated website at www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

Protect your plants from the harshness of winter

IT looks like January will be significantly colder than December. Easterly or north-easterly winds will bring chilly conditions and periods of rain, sleet and snow.

So, you'll need to keep checking slightly tender plants and make sure they are well protected from the weather.

Flower Beds & Borders

Summer-flowering bulbs, corms and tubers are one of the delights of the summer. There are so many to choose from and they come in rainbow of vibrant colours. Great examples include begonias, cannas, dahlias, eucomis and gladioli.

Hardy

Although most are not totally hardy and can't be planted outside until after the main frosts in spring, buy or order them now to ensure good stocks of your favourite varieties.

You can plant them up now in pots of good potting compost (such as Miracle-Gro Expand 'n Gro) and grow them on frost free under cover for planting outside later.

Doing this will provide an earlier display than planting out after the frosts.

Towards the end of the month you can start sowing seeds of annuals that need a long growing season - such as antirrhinum, geranium (pelargonium), lobelia, salvia and bedding begonias.

But resist sowing unless you have the warmth to grow the plants on (a minimum of 10C/50F in a brightly lit place) and the facilities to harden them off properly before planting out.



Keeping plants protected from the cold and frost is very important

Sowing too soon in the wrong conditions can lead to straggly, unhealthy plants that never perform well in the garden. Leaving sowing until the conditions are better usually results in better plants and these soon catch up and out-perform those sown too early.

Before sowing any plants make sure that the compost has been warmed to room temperature; cold compost will prevent seed germination and lead to rotting.

Topical tip: ***Sweet peas can be sown indoors this month, preferably in a heated propagator. You'll get better results if you use long pots, Rootrainers or tubes, rather than standard pots.***

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Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



WEOLEY CASTLE, Barnes Hill £975 pcm + Fees
A huge detached house close to Newman University. This property features 2 large reception rooms, modern kitchen, utility area the back of the garage, 4 big double bedrooms, shower room, separate toilet, huge long garden with a summer house, driveway for 2/3 cars. Benefits also include, double glazing and gas central heating. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Garland Crescent £895 pcm + Fees
A stunning, unfurnished detached house in the well sought after location of Hurst Green. This fantastic property features 4 bedrooms, master bedroom with en suite, bathroom with shower, downstairs w.c., lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen. Benefits also include gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking, gardens. Lovely views. EPC: C



ROMSLEY, Waverley Crescent £850 pcm + Fees
Exceptionally presented & extended 3 bedroom home in a quiet cul-de-sac in the popular village of Romsley. Large living room with elegant fire surround featuring a real working fire. Modern fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, dining room, study/bedroom 4. 3 good size bedrooms, family bathroom with shower over 'P' shaped bath. Private rear garden and parking for 3 cars. EPC: E



ROWLEY REGIS, Fairbourne Avenue £675 pcm + Fees
Perfect for a family and close to the M5. A large Mucklow Style detached home which is available now, close to local shops and buses features 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and 1 large single bedroom, 2 good size lounges, large kitchen, downstairs wc, shower room, gas central heating, new windows, huge rear garden, driveway and garage. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Lowfield Close £650 pcm + Fees
Re-furbished semi detached house, cul-de-sac location comprising of: lounge, dining kitchen, gas central heating, 3 generous bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower, garage and driveway parking, private rear gardens. 6/9 months let only! EPC:E



HALESOWEN, Holt Road £625 pcm + Fees
An immaculately presented mid terraced property in a convenient location for shops, buses and motorway links. The property features a homely lounge, dining room, luxury refitted shower room. 2 double bedrooms, and 2 single loft rooms, gas central heating, double glazing, small rear court yard garden, on road parking. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Lydate Road £595 pcm + Fees
Located in the popular area of Howley Grange, this semi-detached house is ideal for Howley Grange Primary School. briefly featuring 3 bedrooms, kitchen, separate utility area, 2 reception rooms, shower room, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway and garage, small rear garden. EPC: C



STOURBRIDGE, Queensway £595 pcm + Fees
A really deceptive and extended 3 bedroom property close to local shops and schools. This fantastic home has been fully refurbished, including new central heating, new kitchen, doors and carpets! You really do need to view to appreciate the amount of accommodation on offer; there is even a summer house in the garden! Driveway, fore/rear gardens and available now! EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Peckingham Street £575 pcm + Fees
Wonderfully refurbished with original features maintained. 2 apartments immediately available with fantastic convenience centre of town. Ring us now to view these lovely light, airy flats, one with 2 large bay windows. Each has modern kitchen with new appliances and useful utility room. With 2 double bedrooms and 2 bathrooms these are must see exceptional apartments. EPC: TBC



ROWLEY REGIS, Church Walk £575 pcm + Fees
Newly refurbished to a high standard. This 3 bedroom end terraced house with off road parking for 1 vehicle offers a through lounge, fitted kitchen with breakfast bar, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower, gas central heating. Available immediately. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Harcourt Road £550 pcm + Fees
Unfurnished 3 bedroom mid-terraced house within walking distance to Old Hill Train Station and local shops. Featuring 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, large rear garden and off road parking for 2 vehicles. Gas central heating, double glazed throughout. Available immediately. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Olive Lane £550 pcm + Fees
An unfurnished 2 bed semi detached home, close to Blackheath Town Centre. Benefiting from double glazing and central heating and comprising of 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, utility room, downstairs family bathroom, 2 double bedrooms, converted attic room, garage and long mature garden. EPC: F



WORDSLEY, Lyndhurst Drive £550 pcm + Fees
Fantastic size property and a great location for local shops and transport links to Kingswinford, Stourbridge and Wordsley. This wonderfully presented fully refurbished semi-detached house features 2 double bedrooms, large dining kitchen, spacious lounge, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Millbrook Court £550 pcm + Fees
Spacious refurbished 2nd floor apartment in this very convenient location. Having a large lounge with triple glazed windows, refitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, garage and parking. Available early January. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Malt Mill Lane £550 pcm + Fees
A superb fully re-furbished traditional terraced house. Within easy reach of Blackheath and a short drive from Halesowen and the M5. This home features 2 large reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing. A must see property! EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Tanhouse Lane £499 pcm + Fees
Unfurnished detached house currently available in this convenient location having lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs wc, 3 bedrooms & spacious bathroom, garage/driveway. Available immediately. EPC: E



CRADLEY HEATH, Court Street £495 pcm + Fees
A 2 bedroom traditional terraced property in the centre of Old Hill which features 2 double bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, 1 dining/study room, modern fitted kitchen and downstairs bathroom with shower and separate toilet. Gas central heating. Walking distance to rail/bus links. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Stourbridge Road £495 pcm + Fees
A large 2 bedroom end terrace property conveniently located for bus routes and Halesowen Town Centre. This house features a spacious lounge, large modern kitchen/dining area, covered utility area, 2 bedrooms, house bathroom with shower and a huge rear garden. Benefits also include gas central heating, on road parking and cellar. Available now. EPC: E



STOURBRIDGE, Hall Street £475 pcm + Fees
Located in the sought after area of Oldswinford. A quaint mid-terraced house, close to local shops and transport links featuring 2 double bedrooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs shower room, cosy front lounge, rear sitting room, large rear garden, double glazing, gas central heating, on road parking. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Richmond Court £450 pcm + Fees
A modern furnished ground floor 1 bedroom flat set within a quiet location and close to shops and Halesowen Town Centre. This lovely apartment features a fitted kitchen, spacious living Room, 1 bedroom, bathroom with shower, communal gardens. Available immediately. EPC: TBC



ROWLEY REGIS, Winchester Close £395 pcm + Fees
An unfurnished 1st floor apartment, close to the M5 J2. buses and local shops. This apartment features 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, bathroom with shower, parking space and parking area for visitors, communal gardens. EPC: D

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FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCi ZETEC 59 Reg, 5-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 42k, FSH	£7395
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VW BEETLE 1.9 TDi CABRIOLET 08 (57 Reg) Green, Air Con, Alloys, 42k, FSH	£7995
VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8 SRi TOURER 10 Reg, 5-dr, Grey, Air Con, Alloys, 41k, FSH	£8495
AUDI A4 2.0 TDi S-LINE ESTATE 07 (56 Reg) 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 62k, FSH	£8995
SPORTS	
VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 SRi 08 Reg, 5-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 29k, FSH	SOLD
MINI COOPER 1.6S 06 Reg, 3-dr, Blue, Air Con, Alloys, 48k, FSH	£6495
VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.9 CDTi Sri SPORT HATCH 59 Reg, 3-dr, Black, 54k, FSH	£6795
RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi EXPRESSION COUPE 60 Reg, 3-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 30k FSH	£6995
MPVS	
VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE 58 Reg, Silver, Air Con, 32k, FSH	£5495
FORD C-MAX 1.8 TDCi ZETEC 08 Reg, 5-dr, Blue, Air Con, Alloys, 40k, FSH	£6495
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Motoring



The Skoda Octavia vRS has been voted 'Best Everyday Car of the Year' by lifestyle magazine FHM

Octavia vRS scoops award

THE Skoda Octavia vRS has been awarded the 'Best Everyday Car of the Year' gong by a leading men's lifestyle magazine.

Judges on FHM's panel were impressed by the hot Octavia's interior space, family-friendly practicality, impressive performance and striking style. Its price also struck a chord, with an entry figure of £22,990 on the road, putting it well below less spacious alternatives.

Chris Horrell, product marketing manager for Skoda UK said: "We are thrilled that the Octavia vRS hatch has been honoured in the FHM Car Awards.

"The sporty model offers the perfect solution for style-conscious drivers who require superior power delivery as well as all-round everyday practicality."

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Models Shown: Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic, Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic and CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S Manual 2WD in optional Passion Red Pearl. **Terms and Conditions:** Nil Advanced Payment offer on Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual and Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual, £999 Advanced Payment offer on CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S Manual 2WD. All offers are correct at the time of going to print however Honda (UK) reserves the right to change this offer at any time. Models subject to availability. Written details available on request. The facilities offered are for the hire of goods. The scheme is available to recipients of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners Mobility Supplement. To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of a minimum of 12 months allowance. Valid for applications between 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2014 to Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY.

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EcoSport is another first rate car from Ford stable



Ford's EcoSport may have a 'compact' tag but it is surprisingly spacious



There are bash-proof plastics in the cabin but there's a touch of good standard

IF you've been looking for a mini SUV recently you may have noticed the absence of Ford representation in what's become a rapidly growing market sector.

The Blue Oval has finally fixed this omission with the EcoSport, a car boasting familiar Ford driving and design characteristics plus a trio of engines promising to be kind on your wallet.

As befits a market sector focused more on urban agility than the ability to climb every mountain, the EcoSport is front-wheel drive only.

Up front you've the choice of Ford's awarding winning three-cylinder, 1.0-litre EcoBoost petrol motor, a conventional 1.5-litre petrol and frugal 1.5-litre, four-pot diesel unit.

Riding more than a little higher than a Fiesta, the EcoSport offers drivers a commanding view of the road. Despite its 'compact' tag, Ford's mini SUV's cabin is surprisingly spacious, and there's enough room for four adults, or more importantly a growing family.

Bash-proof plastics abound in the cabin, which, while coming close to that of a Fiesta or Focus, are the obvious sign of the EcoSport's low-cost roots.

Still, what you can see and touch is of a good standard, and the controls and displays will be familiar to existing Ford owners.

Also pleasing is Ford's generosity when it comes to standard equipment.

Titanium

Focusing initially on high-grade Titanium spec, the EcoSport lacks very little in real terms thanks to the inclusion of keyless ignition, alloy wheels, air-con, decent audio and plush upholstery.

Open your wallet a little wider and you can add leather trim, rain sensing wipers, cruise control and Ford's feature rich multimedia system complete with mobile phone connectivity.

Showroom appeal is all very well, fortunately the EcoSport also makes a convincing case on the road.

While not built for outright speed the car boasts a well sorted ride and weighty steering, which should instil plenty of confidence when on the move.

Much work has been done by Ford's engineers to tailor the EcoSport to the demands of European roads and its drivers.

The bottom line is that a mini SUV drives much like any current small Ford, which is a considerable achievement and should be enough to give its rivals something to think about.

It's fair to say that, in 1.0-litre EcoBoost trim, the car is best suited to relaxed urban motoring. Brisk performance is easily achievable but push hard and you'll soon be jealous of the extra torque and smoothness of the diesel motor.

The EcoBoost petrol-powered car might be quicker in a straight line but the diesel's welcome extra slug of torque might be a deal-breaker for some.

The five-speed manual gearshift is slick in both cars, while the added flexibility of the diesel allows you to stretch the EcoSport's legs on long journeys.

Motorway cruising is a doddle plus you'll need fewer downchanges when attacking hilly terrain.

Other cars might have stolen a march in this market sector but Ford's EcoSport can stand tall, confident it has the requisite talents to meet many of its rivals head on.

It might not have been first to market but it's yet another first-rate motor from Ford.



This mini SUV drives like any small Ford

Bumper to bumper

Ford EcoSport 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium, from £15,995 on the road.

Engine: 1.0-litre petrol unit developing 125bhp.
Transmission: Five-speed manual transmission as standard, driving the front wheels.
Performance: Maximum speed 112mph, 0-62mph 12.7 seconds.
Economy: 53.3mpg.
CO2 Rating: 125g/km.

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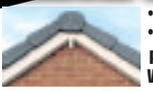
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PEUGEOT MOTOR home, 5 berth, 2008, many extras, fantastic condition, 12,000 miles, £24,000 ono. 07789 996602.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

what's on

markets

caravans wanted

All Caravans Wanted
Any Age or Condition
CASH WAITING
Immediate collection
Call Bill on 07760 344 750

music shop

BLACKSTAR HT60 SOLO, boutique combo, cost £700, sell £395. Telephone 07585 705200.

PIANO ACCORDIAN LESSONS. All ages. Learn a new instrument in 2014. Call Kevin 01384 378787.

sports & leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

weddings

function rooms

FREE FUNCTION ROOM Weddings, anniversaries, birthdays. Powerleague 01384 266000 halesowen@powerleague.co.uk

3 Home & Services

furniture

The BIG SALE

Dreams See our main ad

WINTER SALE
UPTO 70% OFF
New Factory Outlet
Worcester extra value divan single was £99 NOW £49.50. Doubles £89.50. Cleo Sofa Bed clic clac in fabric or faux leather was £398 NOW £119 Melissa Cabin Bed, with base cupboards and drawers, blue or pink, quality mattress, was £390 NOW £195. complete divans from £49, ortho matts from £69, memory foam matts £89, metal fashion beds frames £39, ottoman and leather sleigh beds, over 1000 mattresses, wing chairs £119, recliner chairs £199, massage and power recliners from £299, complete suites from £299. **Save 50% on all leather corner units-normally £499 half price £249.** 3 seater wexford fabric sofas-normally £399 clearance £149. Chairs £49. Recliners leather £199. Beds from £49. Mattresses from just £29. Bunk beds £99.
OPEN 7 DAYS. SUNDAY 10AM-4PM
BFC, Unit 9, Coneygre Rd, Burnt Tree, Dudley DY4 8XP A461
over road from new Tesco, 100 mtrs past Toby.
0121 557 6885

RED LEATHER SOFA three seater and swivel chair, modern design, good condition, £170 ono. Telephone 07825 665347.

THREE PIECE SUITE
Dralon, recently re-covered, reversable cushions, mulberry / cream pattern, solid suite, very good condition.
£300 ono.
Buyer to collect.

CASUAL TABLE
Light oak, 2ft 6 x 1ft 6 x 2ft 2, suitable for hall, lounge and bedroom.
£40.
01785 822588.

The Famous BILSTON SUNDAY MARKET & CAR BOOT
52 WEEKS A YEAR, WHATEVER THE WEATHER!
OVER 150 SHELTERED STALLS
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BILSTON TOWN CENTRE, WV14 0DN
"IF ITS LEGAL, IT CAN BE SOLD HERE!"
CALL DAVE 07907 332065
www.lsdpromotions.com

household appliances

CANON TRADITIONAL 60 FREE STANDING COOKER Double electric oven, with ceramic hob, cream, fully programmable, insured until May 2014. Cost £750. **Sell £295. Telephone 07585 705200.**

FRIDGE FREEZER in excellent condition £90. Can deliver. 07765 106519.

in your garden

Top Soil, Building Sand
Paving/Concrete Sand
Decorative Gravels
Delivered Bagged or Loose
01902 893226

items for sale

CORRUGATED Roofing Sheets Also tile effect/box profile/curved and z purlins. Call Hornsey Steels 01547 530419

items wanted

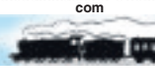
A BEST CASH PRICE PAID



ALL TOYS CARS/LORRIES WANTED. ALL Mamod/Wilesco/Bowmans
All conditions
Dinky *Corgi* *Spot-on*
Britains and Airfix
Mamod / Wilesco Steam Engines
Scalextric Pre 1970's Tri-ang, cars or complete sets.
Old Enamel Advertising Signs
Pre 1970 Annuals wanted, Beano, Dandy, etc
01902 745598 / 07984 159571



ALL BOXED / LOOSE RAILWAY COLLECTIONS WANTED
ANY GAUGE OR AGE
Also live steam, also Diecast, Dinky, Corgi, Spot On. Guaranteed top cash prices paid!!
0121 602 2569/07891 713547. thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com



ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft •Lladro • Old coins • Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys • Clocks • Paintings • All silver • Chinese items • Old Ivory. • Military items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

TRAILER WANTED. Galvanised, factory made, any size. 07752 805267.

WANTEDSmall mannequin or sewing busk. 01384 221546.

pc's, laptops & accessories

LAPTOP Computer, windows, wireless, office, good condition, can deliver and show working £65. 07973 348534.

t.v. / home entertainment

sales

SONY 40INS TV (LCD) DVD/video, surround amplifier/speakers, mini DV camcorder, tomtom, satnav. £250 will seperate. 01902 880274.

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS
Free call out & estimates on any TV Plasma, LCD, Projection repairs. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.
07850 330251

specialists at your service

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY & TAX, Year end accounts, VAT, Payroll, Est 20 yrs 01902 68 86 68 / 07850 450 636

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
1 aerial into 2 rooms
£85
1 aerial into 4 rooms
£125
All work guaranteed
SAME DAY SERVICE
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

alarms/security

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12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
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Call: 0121 601 9791

appliance repairs

Home Appliance Repair & Parts
Washing machine faulty?
Cooker faulty?
All Brands - All Appliances Repaired
FREE CALL OUT 07764 478534 or 01384 373096

building services

All TYPES OF BUILDING & roofing work by Davies & Son. No job too small. See us on 'Rated People'. Call 01902 579592 / 07837 994465

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A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
Carpets dry in 30 minutes.
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- Landlord Certificates
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home improvements

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HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALISTS
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FREE FURNITURE COLLECTIONS
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Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
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0800 587 0377
or 07749 941319

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN! Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house 1 item.07429 453209/01902 830870

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, Items large or small. Call: 01902 741546, 07917 679360 or 01384 468955.

roofing

MG ROOFING
Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters.
01902 238989 or 07580 465449

PREMIER ROOFING New Roofs, Repairs, Facias & Gutters. Call: 0121 532 7601or 07875 387445.

SEMI RETIRED ROOFER All things roofing, flat roofs/fascias and guttering, 38 years experience. Please call Keith: 07546 158165

skip hire

MT SKIPS
All sizes
All areas covered
Immediate delivery
Competitive prices
Fast and Reliable service
Call:01384 240956
07920 885774

GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE LTD. Mini, midi, maxi, large. Screened soil and crushed hardcore for sale. All skips for weekend must be booked by Friday. Call: 0121 555 6060.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

AIR ARMS S410
Gas powered, 10 shot .177, with carry case and silencer. Also Deben scope, which cost £550, might separate. **Will accept £480 for both. Telephone 07789 053575.**

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BEADLE PUPPIES first vacc and health checked, £300. 07972 604503.

BEAGLE PUPPIES terrific temperament, ideal family pet. Parents can be seen, £450. 07899 993998.

KIND HOMES WANTED
JASMINE Lovely gentle 9 yr old liver and white springer spaniel
SPOTTY 8yr old pretty tri colour small collie girl
MEG 3year old Collie Cross, lovely, affectionate
KIM Collie cross 4year old lovely family pet
CHARLIE 7 year old Yorkshire Terrier
POPPY 4 year old Yorkshire Terrier
SOPHIE 5 yr old female small staffie, friendly, affectionate and lovely
01588 676106 or visit website www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

KING CHARLES Cavaliers, first vacc and health checked, £350. 07972 604503.

SIBERIAN HUSKY, 18 months old must go to a loving home only £300 07891 835098 / 01902 563320.

STAFFORDSHIRE BULL Terrier pup, 5 months old, full Pedigree, vaccinated, ill health forces sale, £200. 07864 884874 or 0121 5201882.

WANTED. Aviary birds for large private aviary. Also pigeons and poultry for beginner and parrot for house pet. 07970 485491.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

6 Property

accommodation to let

A 1-BEDROOM over 50's flat, Chapel Ash, W'ton, £350 pcm. Wednesfield H.A. 01952 463603.

A STUDIO FLAT Coalway Road, W'ton, £280pcm. Wednesfield H.A. 01952 463603.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

COSELEY comfortable s/c flat, 1 bed, unfurnished, ideal 30+, £330 pcm. 01902 758934.

FLAT TO Rent Bilston, with private parking with disabled access. £375 pcm. 07966 527807.

THREE BED House, Fellow St, W-ton, WV2 4ND. (opposite park) £500pcm ono. 07779 974453.

THREE BED Semi Bloxwich. £125pw parking, dg, GCH, garden, alarm, n/s or pets. 07830 038188.

WEDNESFIELD AREA 2/3 bed dormer bungalow with garage, full CH, large garden within walking distance to all amenities. 01902 845817 / 07813 063399.

WEDNESFIELD Speedwell Close, 2 bed house, parking, garage, £525pcm. 07800 876199.

accommodation wanted

TWO BED BUNGALOW WITH GARAGE

GCH on long term let, unfurnished, near Wombourne, Swindon, Himley or any surrounding quiet area.

Must be by Public transport required by 2 respectable mature males, one with a disability.

Must accept HB.

Willing to pay upto £475pcm.

07510 348797.

houses for sale



STOWHEATH

2 bed end terrace, garage, driveway, DG, new CH, gas fire, wood floors, fitted wardrobe, large garden, recently renovated.

Room to extend.

£97,500.

07930 310761.



WROCKWARDINE WOOD TELFORD

Bungalow occupying idyllic spot with rear Woodlands and stunning Wrekin views. Partial DG, electric heating, double bedroom, new kitchen, new bathroom, lounge, verandah. Front and rear gardens with shrubs, rose bushes and tree lined rear aspect. Parking. No upward chain. Potential to extend subject to planning.

£89,999.

Telephone 07748 527049

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We Buy Any House

We Pay 100% of Purchase Price

EVERY TIME

BCH BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

- We are a family run local business.
- A fair offer from people you can trust.
- No fees - Free solicitors

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pink!

- Free confidential service • No Fees*
- Any property • Any condition
- Any area* • Repossessions Stop
- Deceased estates

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*subject to terms

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Guaranteed offer*

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NOW

0121 308 7786

24/7

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A guaranteed offer* no fees* free solicitors

*Subject to terms

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Fast Sale Maximum Value

YellowSpringbok

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01902 489 500

YellowSpringbok.co.uk

mobile homes

MOBILE HOME

Two bedrooms, excellent throughout, good sized garden, private parking, residential site at Hinksford near Kingswinford.

£99,500.

01384 400631/07896 325163.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL

01902 317878



ClassifiedAds

7 Jobs

courses

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- Driver Medicals
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TELFORD 26-27 MAR

TAMWORTH 10-11 FEB 24-25 APRIL

DROITWICH 8-9 FEB

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employment wanted

TWENTY YEAR old male seeks employment as electricians mate. 17th Edition, Asbestos Awareness and ECS. 07596 136510.

part time - general

NEED AN EXTRA INCOME £200-£2,000pm - 0121 314 9652. www.bericher.info

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW 118i 07 SH, metallic blue, full MoT, 1 owner, petrol, very good condition, £4,800 ono. 07704 218869.

FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCi SPORT 2004, 108,000 miles, general good working condition. £1,700 ono. 07837 307228.



LAND ROVER DISCOVERY GS TD5 2.5 DIESEL

2001 (Y), manual, long MoT, tax April, 5 seater, a/c, super condition, fsh, new tyres, twin s/r, low mileage (100k), silver, good condition.

£3,200 ono.

Telephone 07790 207207.

MICRO CAR M8 automatic, 13 Reg, taxed to end of February, £9,000. 01384 486039.

RENAULT CLIO DCI EXP+, 52 reg, 80bhp, 5dr, 109k, fsh, ac, ew, em, sr, MoT July, recent cambelt, £1,295 ono. 07762 377557.

RENAULT KANGOO Auto, wheelchair access, 2004, 1.6, 24,000 miles, fsh, 12 months MoT, 1 months tax, £2,995 ono. 07828 678711.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE

04, 66k miles, blue, FSH, tax, MoT, A/C, S/R, genuine reason for sale. New cam belt and brakes. Excellent bodywork, quiet motor. 6 CD unit.

£1,790 ono. 01746 766662.

RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE TCE

2009, 59 reg, 1.4 cc turbo, blue, all usual fittings, only 21,300 miles, 10 months MoT. Sale due to medical reasons.

£5,500 ono. 01902 634085.

TOYOTA AVENSIS 54 Reg, semi auto, MoT 12 months, tax 6 months, 79,000 miles, silver, £2,100. 07404 733389.

TOYOTA AVENSIS 54 Reg, semi auto, MoT 12 months, tax 6 months, 79,000 miles, silver, £2,100. 07404 733389.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



TOYOTA YARIS T-SPORT

2002, 76,000 miles, tax March 2014, MoT April 2014, AC, CD, EW, RCL, excellent condition.

£1,600 ono.

Call 07505 100296.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Life, 1.8 auto estate, dark blue, 57 reg, 35k, FSH, 8 months MoT, £3,600. 07710 273211.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2SXi, 06 reg, tax/MoT, two owners from new, black, fsh, absolute bargain £1,650. 07917 771033.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2SXi, 06 reg, tax/MoT, two owners from new, black, fsh, absolute bargain £2,000 ono. 07939 483221.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

This Could Be Yours

BARGAIN FOR QUICK SALE!

FORD MONDEO 1.8 54 REG

2 owners from new. Good condition. Great drive. Tax till June 2014. MoT till March 2014. E/W, E/M, C/L with 2 keys. CD radio with MP3 input and new tyres.

First to try will buy.

Bargain £1,050 ono for quick sale.

07814 473020

or 01384 345253.

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL

Cars, Caravans, Household Goods etc.



ONLY £19.50 FOR 6 NIGHTS

PLUS *6 nights Free if you do not sell!*

Includes one week online and your local Chronicles

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IN PERSON - At your local Express & Star office

*SOURCE: Jicreg 01.10 .2012. Private advertisers only.

Buy Local, Sell Local

01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

star extra TRAVEL

LONDON THEATRE BREAKS



Choose your show, price band*and how you want to travel

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.95 **Dine and Dance from £149.95**

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £149.95

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £199.95

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.*

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)



For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

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01902 490555 / 07553 358610
DALE STREET, BILSTON, WV14 7JY

FORD FIESTA ZETEC 1.2 1998, full MoT, taxed, 2-dr, red, 69K, sunroof, PAS, £485. 07804 168151.

FORD FIESTA ZETEC 1.2 1998, full MoT, taxed, 2-dr, red, 69K, sunroof, PAS, £485. 07804 168151.

FORD KA 53 reg, MoT September, tax March, 58,000 miles, clean condition, ideal first car, £695. 07587 344165.

HYUNDAI GETZ 1.3, 1300 GSi, blue, 3dr hatchback, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, £1,500 ono. 07963 303529.

PEUGEOT 307 1.4 diesel, MoT, tax, £300 just spent, very economical, £30 per year tax, good condition, £1,195 ono. 07463 161974.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 Dynamique, 04 reg, 3-dr, 2 owners from new, taxed, MoT'd, CL, CD, sun roof, £1495 ono. 07779 455916.

RENAULT LAGUNA 02 reg, diesel, 150k, 2 months tax and MoT, flat battery, £175. 01902 419597.

RENAULT LAGUNA ESTATE 1.8l petrol, 2002, fsh, 100k miles, 11 months MoT, tax, good condition, £1,250 ono. 07770 511459.

RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0 Petrol Estate, 2006, new cam belt, cruise control, excellent condition £1,500 ono. 07890 382724.

SKODA FABIA November 2000, 29,000 miles, no tax, MoT November 2014, £850 ono. 01902 680445.

SUZUKI SWIFT 900cc, 2001, 9 months tax and MoT, very clean 68k miles, £395. 07593 282234.

VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0, 2004, tax, MoT, good condition for year, s/h, silver, £895. 07842 792847.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2004, 74,639 miles, MoT June 14, 2 lady owners, good condition except broken cam shaft, £300 ono. 01384 239856,

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6, black, 4 months tax, 8 months MoT, 100k miles, X reg, £850. 07875 470875.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA COMFORT, 2001, 109,000 miles, silver, e/w, e/m, a/c, c/l, CD, long MoT, tax, £500 ono. 07986 566183.

VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 1.8, V reg, tax and MoT, good condtion for age, £550 ono. 07969 025659.

VOLVO S40 96k miles, petrol, CL, EW, blue, 4 door, MoT / tax till June, new clutch / cambelt, CD, clean and tidy. £1,100 ono. 07968 064253.

commercial vehicles

BLACK CAB PX11 04 reg, bronze, automatic, £3,200 ono. 01952 582396 after 6pm.

driving tuition



Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
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motorbikes

VELOCETTE 1938 250cc, model MOV, restored, good number, history file, exchange for Classic Car or sell £5,500. 01562 752870.

WANTED OLD motorcycle for restoration, complete or just parts. 01922 415137. 07944 270345.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

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Seconds start New Year with hard battle

Bromsgrove 2nds 10
Old Halesonians 2nds 18

OLD Halesonians Seconds started 2014 with a hard fought win over local rivals Bromsgrove 2nds.

Bromsgrove were fired up for this encounter and dominated possession for much of the first half.

Old Hales defended manfully to keep the home side from crossing their try line, but finally the referee adjudged that an Old Hales infringement at a Bromsgrove attacking scrum prevented a certain try and awarded Bromsgrove a penalty try.

The straight forward conversion gave the home side a 7-0 lead.

Bromsgrove continued to attack in the Old Hales half and following the award of a penalty, the home side took the opportunity to add another three points to take a lead into half time.

The Old Hales half time team talk seemed to do the trick and they started the second half with more purpose and direction.

The visitors gained a greater amount of possession and regularly attacked the Bromsgrove defence. From one such attack, the ball was moved quickly to the right and speedster Jack Manners showed a clean pair of heels as he outpaced the Bromsgrove defence to score.

The visitors could now smell the scent of victory and continued to attack.

From a Bromsgrove lineout close to their own line, Old Hales pressure paid off as the ball fell loose over the line and second row Tom Lewis reacted quickly and pounced for a try.

The conversion was unsuccessful leaving the score level.

The Old Hales pressure took its toll on the Bromsgrove No.10 who was shown a yellow card following an infringement and back chat to the referee.

The referee marched the Bromsgrove defence back 20 metres and Sam Vaughan slotted the penalty over for a 13-10 lead.

With less than 10 minutes to go to full time Old Hales put together a superb passage of play from a scrum. Great interplay by several players ended with Alex Church going over for the final try of the game.

Old Hales dogged determination contributed to this deserved victory over a strong Bromsgrove side.

Win puts Yeltz four points clear at top

Halesowen 2 Loughborough 1

Football

HALESOWEN went four points clear at the top of the Evo-Stik Division One South after beating Loughborough in a closely fought contest.

Loughborough had the first chance of the game as a cross from Nathan Watson flew into the box and captain Kris Nurse got his head to the ball and knocked it towards goal, but the ball just bounced wide of the left hand post.

Neil Mackenzie then came close to getting his name on the scoresheet as he got the ball from 20 yards out and hit a low, powerful shot towards goal, but the ball bobbled wide of the left hand post.

Halesowen came close once again as a cross from Kristian Green flew towards the other end of the box before Iyseden Christie managed to get his head to the ball and he would have scored if it wasn't for a great reaction save from Kahil Mann-Kler.

Halesowen then broke the deadlock in the 37th minute as after a fumble from Mann-Kler, Penney was allowed to slot the ball home for his second goal of the season.

The first half came to a close and with both sides having the odd few chances, the teams would have to make more of their attempts at goal.

The game entered the second half and Halesowen's advantage was doubled seven minutes in, as a poor clearance resulted in the ball being left in the area and Christie pounced and blasted the ball into the top of the net to give the Yeltz a comfortable lead.

Loughborough had their first chance of the half 25 minutes in, with Sam Ward hitting a shot but the ball bounced wide of the goal. Halesowen came close to grabbing a third goal, as Jean Gueyes managed to get to Christie's through-ball and he cut into the box.

He hit the ball across the box for Nigel Penney to smash the ball home, but he hit the ball low and Mann-Kler managed to save it. In the final minutes of the game, Loughborough were awarded a penalty.

Rob Norris stood up to take it, and he placed the ball easily into the bottom right corner and making the few final minutes of the game tense for the Yeltz.

However, Loughborough couldn't capitalise on the goal and the game ended with Halesowen claiming all three points and a four point gap between them and Leek, bearing in mind that Leek have three more games to play.

Here come the girls as clubs warm to winners

THE normally male dominated world of amateur boxing is warming to girl power in Dudley after a trio of fighters brought home the honours in the ABA competitions of 2013.

by Craig Birch

Lions ABC's Victoria Morgan, Priory Park's Amie Smith and young Paige Goodyear, of Brooklands ABC, went into 2014 ranked the top of their class.

Goodyear won a 46kg title at just 12-years-old in December. Since turning 13, the High Arcal School student from Wren's Nest has already been boxing for over a year.

Her involvement in the schoolgirls competition brought home the first national title for the club, at the home gym of 35-year-old former pro Darren McDermott. The ex-British and Commonwealth title challenger and English champion from Woodsetton, who retired in 2010, admits he's warmed to the ladies' side of the sport.

He said: "Paige is my first national champion, which is absolutely fantastic for a club that is only into its third season. Hopefully, we can have a few more.

"She's been brilliant and if I had a gym full like her, I would be well happy. I am starting to think the girls give more than the boys, actually.

"I was a bit against it, at first, I have never trained a girl to box before but I give her all the credit in the world, she has converted me.

Priory Park trainer Paul Gough is planning to heavily invest his club's time in building up a female "squad" for future competitions, after Smith's success.

She took a senior title at 48kg in Class C, for fighters who have had none to five bouts, despite only making her unpaid debut on a club show in November.

Gough said: "Amy's looking forward to boxing on our club show next month and her winning a national title means exactly the same to the club as the lads' did.

"It makes no difference who it is, they have won it and put the hard work in to be ranked No.1 in the country."

It was second time lucky for Morgan, after she was beaten in the 71kg Class C final the previous year. She made no mistake in the same category this time.

Lions trainer John Shakespeare said: "Victoria has been with us for about three years now and bouts can be scarce, but she's getting better each year.

"You need a bit of grit to survive in any area of boxing ... and gritty fighters are the ones that keep coming back.

"To have our first female national champion means a lot to our club."



Champions all, from left Victoria Morgan, Amie Smith and Paige Goodyear have brought honours for their clubs

Khalsa is the victor in seesaw match-up

Sporting Khalsa 3
Cradley Town 2

KHALSA earned a victory over Cradley town in a seesaw last game of 2013.

Khalsa started the brighter of the sides and the first chance of the game fell to them when Liam Hughes failed to convert a one-to-one with the keeper who saved with his legs.

Sporting took the lead in the 10th minute when John Cordy's cross was tapped into the net by Hayden Williams.

Just nine minutes later Cradley levelled.

Then it was Cordy again who retook the lead for Khalsa when he rounded the keeper and shot hard and low into the net.

Not to be outdone on the half hour Cradley equalised with a header.

But Cordy was having none of it and put Khalsa ahead again from three yards out.

The second half started with Causeway pushing forward in numbers in search of another equaliser, but with no real penetration.

Khalsa looked dangerous on the break and both Mark Habbershaw and Liam Hughes had great chances to increase the lead but could not convert the chances.

Lee helps team to the third place

ATHLETE Lee Slater had a great run for second place in the senior men's race at the Worcester county cross country championships, leading Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers to third in the team race.

Paul Waby provided great back up, with an excellent seventh and winning the over-50 age group.

Dave Ratcliffe was chased home by Dave Nation as they finished 18th and 19th, with Jordan Smith 30th and Scott Palmer 43rd closing the team.

Elliot Jones ran well for third in the under-15 boys race as Jay Priantoro was 13th.

In the under-13 boys, Tom Slater also took the bronze medal.

The under-13 girls just missed out on medals as Grace Slater, Niamh Crowe and Chloe Priest finished in fourth place.

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SPORT

Here come the girls
Women boxers are bringing home the honours for clubs
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New Year old story as DK are defeated

DK 7 Otley RFC 60

WITH the dawning of a new year it was hoped 2014 would bring better fortunes for Dudley Kingswinford.

DK rooted at the bottom of the league welcomed Otley RFC for their second visit to Heathbrook.

Courtesy of some woeful tackling, Otley scored their first try via centre Mackie which was converted by Mark Ireland. Shortly afterwards Ireland's boot again nudged the visitors ahead.

DK's defences, which had begun to leak penalties, allowed the Otley scrum half Stephan Depledge – on his 100th appearance for the club – to score a try, which Ireland converted.

On the half time whistle, Otley were awarded yet another penalty and Ireland converted.

Following the kick-off, the ball was moved wide to allow Paul Hill to run in virtually unopposed and Ireland converted. Another unconverted try in the corner by winger Alexander Beaumont gave the visitors a 32 point lead.

Otley scored converted tries by Hill (his second) No.4 Jonathan Stennard and winger Nazim Karim – to put the game out of sight.

As a consolation Pete Knight crashed over for Gareth Bown to convert for DK. Otley, not to be out done, saw Mark Ireland score his second.

Rout sees off BC Rangers

Shawbury United 4
Black Country Rgrs 0

NINE-MAN Black Country Rangers were convincingly beaten in the only West Midlands League Premier Division fixture to survive the elements.

After the rout, they must have wished they had joined the long list of postponements.

Two goals from Robbie Millington and strikes from Steve Faux and Dave Howarth left Rangers, who had a man sent off in each half, well beaten by full-time.

The game turned when Shawbury striker Stuart Ellis was brought down in the box.

Rangers defender Elliott Sterling was dismissed for the challenge, with Millington converting the penalty.

He scored in open play after the break after robbing a Rangers defender on the edge of the box.

Nuns on the run are victors over Old Hales

Old Halesonians 0 Nuneaton 10

Rugby

THIS was likely to be a defining fixture at home against the league leaders Nuneaton as they held on to a narrow lead for victory.

Hales looked dominant for many periods of the game but too many dropped passes and errors prevented the home team from finishing off.

Early exchanges saw Hales pressing the Nuneaton defence on many occasions but could not cross the try line. The lineout was inconsistent for Hales allowing Nuns to spoil good possession.

The visitors managed to fight back forcing a Hales infringement which they converted for a three point lead. At this stage there was no difference between the sides, Hales gaining more territory.

Hales came back with strong running by backs Andy Robinson, Luke Smith and wing Joe Oxford. This forced an infringement giving a penalty chance to draw level, but Steve Powell missed.

At half time Hales were in confident mood and the first half performance gave indication that the game was there for the taking if they did the basics right.

The second half again showed Hales could win this with driving runs from Pete Fitzgerald, Tom Jordan and Tom Dempsey. The home side continued to camp in the Nuns half but with no reward.

Sloppy passing, dropped balls and unnecessary offloads gave the visitors easy possession. Nuneaton did the basics right from here which was the difference between the sides.

Hales were awarded a penalty left field on the visitors 22, an ideal opportunity for a lineout and driving maul. Steve Powell miss kicked the ball dead in goal gifting possession again to the visitors.

New recruit prop Cliff Tomkinson came on from the bench to help stabilise the scrum and showed his experience in the pack. Nuneaton took their opportunities well, worked their way down the field and dominated a maul to drive over for a converted try.

Injury to centre Carl Robinson disrupted the team as he left the field and Simon Sabel came off the bench as his replacement.

Valiant effort by forwards Jordan, Evans Breese and Fitzgerald could not breach the nuns line.

They remain in fourth in the league but the gap is increasing between the top four. Hales meet Syston at home this Saturday.

LATE STRIKES CUT IT FOR GLASSBOYS

Stourbridge 2 Bedford Town 1

Football

IT took Glassboys two late goals – a minute apart – to secure three points against a Bedford Town side struggling to avoid relegation.

For Stourbridge, Leon Broadhurst led the side out on his 500th appearance, while the introduction of Sam Rock as a first-half substitute for the injured Ben Billingham saw him chalk up his 350th appearance for the Glassboys.

The visitors caused Stourbridge some early problems and looked particularly dangerous when able to counter attack.

In the 10th minute a long diagonal ball by Paul Cooper picked out on-loan Stevenage FC teenager Fejiri Okenabirhie on the left-hand edge of the box, but he drove his angled low shot wide.

Attacking

The hosts were struggling to get their attacking game going despite some promising situations, but they had a great chance in the 26th minute as Luke Benbow fed Netan Sansara on the left and he delivered in an excellent low centre across the face of the six-yard box, but Chris Knight turned the ball the wrong side of the upright.

Bedford responded three minutes later with Jordan Davis and Okenabirhie combining before Jeremy Nash hit a low shot that Coleman got safely behind.

Better play from Stourbridge saw them twice go close in quick succession.

In first-half stoppage time Bedford had penalty shouts rejected after Curtis Shaw slipped up Jean-Phillipe Yamfam, who looked to take on and beat Coleman. However the keeper dived down at his feet and although Yamfam went over, the referee was happy that Coleman played the ball first and awarded a corner.

Stourbridge started the second-half brightly with both Rock and Will Richards being thwarted by Green, but they found themselves trailing in the 54th minute as Okenabirhie found the top corner of the net .

The home side sought out an equaliser and they went close in the 61st minute when Geddes smacked a 20-yard free-kick against Green's right-hand upright.

Just when it looked like Bedford might hold on to their slender advantage, they were hit by two goals in as many minutes.

A cross from Sansara brushed off the head of a visiting defender and Benbow made room to shoot home past Green.

Home celebrations had barely died down when the hosts struck again with a low Geddes shot from the edge of the box being diverted into the net by Brown for the final score.



Leon Broadhurst is given the honour of leading out the team as he makes his 500th appearance for Stourbridge

Phillips is now a Heathen

TALENTED teenager Danny Phillips has joined Cradley Heath for his first full season of National League racing.

Phillips, aged17, joins the reigning champions on a three-point average but impressed club bosses with his scores when riding as a guest for Mildenhall towards the end of last season.

He was wanted by a host of other clubs but pledged his immediate future to the Heathens and joins Paul Starke, Steve Worrall, Tom Perry and Max Clegg as a confirmed starter.

Heathens are also set to hold talks with Nathan Greaves who is wanted back for a second successive season and another new signing will be confirmed next week.

The Heathens are hosting another season ticket sales night on Thursday, January 23 at Cradley Heath Liberal Club.

Club officials will be there to meet supporters.

The club have also confirmed their 2014 season launch party with all the riders will be on Saturday, March 8, at Cradley Heath Liberal Club and tickets will go on sale soon.

Hennessey says sorry over Gills

WAYNE HENNESSEY has apologised for refusing to play at Gillingham as Crystal Palace and West Ham emerged as front-runners to sign the £2m-rated goalkeeper.

Boss Kenny Jackett revealed the Wales No.1 had said sorry on Monday morning after asking not to play against the Gills, and he will now be available to face Preston on Saturday.

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